

# WALSALL CHRONICLE



Thursday, December 6, 2012

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## Vital support

Governors back headteacher  
Dame Mo despite verdict

See page 3



## X-tra special

Rocker from TV talent  
show sings for pupils

Focus on Willenhall – page 20



## Top of the pots

Town's snooker ace  
beats world champion

Sport – back page



## Concern at the Manor hospital's death rate

WALSALL Manor Hospital was among a dozen named and shamed on Monday for higher than expected death rates.

The number of patient deaths at the hospital was above expected levels in 2011/12, the Doctor Foster Hospital Guide found. It was one of 12 hospital trusts in the country to have recorded higher than expected death rates last year.

Hospital bosses insisted improvements had been made and the number of patient deaths had fallen in the past five months.

Chief executive Richard Kirby said: "As soon as we identified that our rate was rising in early 2011 we commissioned a review and agreed a set of actions to improve our performance."

He said extra nursing staff had been brought in and there were plans to add seven new medical consultants.

According to the Doctor Foster Hospital Guide, Walsall Manor had a hospital standardised mortality rate of 117 between April 2011 and March 2012. The expected level is 100.

## MP raises crossing

THE leader of the House of Commons has promised to speak to Government transport bosses over safety on a Walsall road.

Valerie Vaz, MP for Walsall South, is calling for a pedestrian crossing in Darlaston Road, Pleck, to be signal-controlled after a boy suffered serious head injuries and a woman sustained a broken pelvis.

"Three hundred local people have signed a petition yet the council refuses to upgrade the crossing to a signal-controlled crossing" said Ms Vaz. Leader of the House, Andrew Lansley, told her he would raise the matter with the Department for Transport.

Walsall Council has said crossings controlled by lights may not be as safe as a zebra crossing.

## Decision that is still haunting victim's son

A split second decision still haunts Tom Davis eight months after the murder of his Second World War hero father by neighbour Charlotte Frazier-Doody.

The project manager, aged 56, of Wolverhampton, believes that he might have saved the life of highly decorated 92-year-old Bill Davis if he had taken the advice of his wife.

He explained: "We were on our way home from a day out and as we approached junction 10 of the M6 she said 'shall we go and see your dad?' I said 'no, I saw him yesterday and will give him a call in the week.'"

"We passed the slip road at 4pm, a few minutes before Dad was attacked. His watch had stopped at 4.13pm. We could have been at his house in no time."

"If we had turned off the motorway and gone to the address I might have actually caught her or stopped it altogether – and I have got to live with that for the rest of my life."

"The police have told me not to keep beating myself up over that but it is difficult to forget something like that."

### Cherished

Mr Davis was alerted that his father had been injured shortly after arriving home and immediately drove to the cordoned-off scene.

"I went up to a policeman and explained that I was the son of the man who lived there and asked if I could go in. He just turned to me and said: 'You don't want to go in there mate' and went to look for the sergeant."

"They brought my father out on a stretcher as I was standing there. All I saw was his arm suddenly drop down to one side and they took him back into the house."

"The sergeant came out and said: 'I am sorry to tell you in these circumstances in the middle of the street, but your father has passed away'."

"Seeing the father you have loved and cherished and who has loved and cherished you all your life go like that was heartbreaking."

His most poignant reminder of the father he adored are his eight medals from the Second World War that hang proudly in a display cabinet alongside a picture of Bill Davis as a young man.

"He was a hero who deserved a better end to his life," said Mr Davis.



Victim's son Tom Davis

## Revamp of busy road following accidents

A BUSY route in Walsall is being revamped with a narrow carriageway and improved roundabouts after a series of accidents.

More than £120,000 is being ploughed into safety improvements along Broadway North in Walsall, which is used by thousands of motorists a day.

But drivers are warned that changes, particularly the narrowing of the road, could increase congestion.

Work on new road markings and a wider central reservation is due to be completed by the middle of this month. Pedestrian crossing points are being added near Lincoln Road.

Further improvements, at the Sutton Road and Crescent roundabouts, are planned in the New Year and expected to take six weeks.

There has been a series of accidents at the junction with Sutton Road and the damaged pedestrian guard outside the United Reformed Church will be replaced. The work includes installation of containment kerbs, which are higher and shaped to cause vehicles that hit them to rebound.

## Two held after raid

TWO men have been arrested on suspicion of robbery after a police chase along a canal towpath following a raid on a post office in Pheasey.

Officers were called after cash was taken from the Queslett Road post office at around 12.30pm on Monday.

During the incident a BMW collided with a lamp post in Lake Avenue, at the junction with Barry Road, where a number of people got out and ran off.

Two men, aged 21 and 28, were caught by officers on the nearby canal towpath near Walstead Road and were taken into custody, where on Tuesday they were helping police with inquiries.

Another suspect was still being sought by police.

# WHY DID NEIGHBOUR MURDER HERO BILL?

THE HEARTBROKEN family of murdered Second World War veteran Bill Davis are pleading with his killer to break her silence. His son Tom Davis is calling for Charlotte Frazier-Doody to explain why she killed the 92-year-old.

He said: "If she has a modicum of decency in her body she will tell us how and why she murdered dad."

"Without that information, it is almost impossible for us to draw a line under this terrible crime."

The great-grandfather, who rose from a naval rating to petty officer and won eight medals before returning from the conflict without a scratch, was beaten to death in the back living room of his Willenhall home.

Drug addict Frazier-Doody, who has been put behind bars for at least 20 years, lived opposite her victim in Hobley Street for more than three years after moving back in with ex-husband Mick Doody, a builder, and two of their children.

The 36-year-old smoked heroin before attacking frail Mr Davis at around 4pm on April 1. The victim, who had lived alone since the death of his wife and walked with the aid of a stick or walking frame, was pushed to the



Victim 94-year-old war veteran Bill Davis

floor and clubbed at least four times on the head, probably with the saucepan he used to cook his lunch.

### Concerned

Mr Davis was close to death when he was found two hours later by neighbours with a key to the house who had become concerned for his safety. Medics were unable to save him and he was certified dead at the scene shortly after 7pm.

Frazier-Doody fled back to



Jailed killer Charlotte Frazier-Doody

her home after the attack and disposed of the murder weapon and her blood-stained clothing, neither of which have been found.

She stood stony-faced in the dock at Wolverhampton Crown Court as the jury returned their unanimous guilty verdict after deliberating for four hours and 50 minutes following a two-week trial. She had consistently denied the crime.

Ferocious attack – page 3

## Student reaches fashion final

A FASHION student from Walsall has made it to the final of a prestigious design competition at Birmingham's Clothes Show Live.

Walsall College student Georgia Homer, 19, who is studying fashion and textiles, is one of 10 finalists who have cut, sewn and out-stitched hundreds of others to the final of Young Designer of the Year 2012.

The competition gives fashion students a chance to showcase their designs at Clothes Show Live, which is being held at the NEC from tomorrow (Friday) to Tuesday. The winner will get a trophy, £1,000 prize money, industry work experience with a top designer and a donation towards their college or university.

This year's theme, Fashion Wonderland, required entrants to produce an innovative yet wearable dress for a favourite icon. Georgia's design was inspired by American TV star Whitney Port.



A cut above – Georgia Homer, a student at Walsall College, has reached the final of a top fashion award

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## Markets need more stalls, say traders

**MORE stalls should be introduced and better signs erected at Willenhall and Bloxwich markets, traders have said, as bosses look to give both a boost.**

Surveys have been carried out by traders and the shoppers who use the district markets.

Initial responses have now been reported back to council chiefs as an action plan is drawn up to tackle issues.

Traders at Willenhall's long-running market have called for more investment to be made into

improving stalls and attracting a bigger and better range of pitches.

Meanwhile, traders at Bloxwich Market have called for more stalls with a wider array of goods to be made available and for more effective ways of getting rid of litter.

## Meeting

The findings were outlined to members of Walsall Council's regeneration scrutiny and performance panel.

Speaking at the meeting, Helen Kindon, from the town and district

centre management team, said: "Bloxwich holds its own but does go up and down."

"Willenhall is deteriorating slightly more with Wednesday now being the main market day but Friday and Saturdays are not attracting as many traders."

Questionnaires have been sent out to traders on both pitches while shoppers at both sites were also quizzed.

Customers who were asked for their views on the markets called for a better range and array of stalls.

They also asked for queues to be reduced at Bloxwich Market on Saturdays and for paving to be improved there too.

## Parking

In Willenhall, shoppers want to see better car parking provision, less cars travelling through the town centre and a greater police presence.

A more detailed report about the markets survey is being drawn up and will be used to form a more detailed action plan.

## Homes in scheme at scrap yard

A NEW housing estate has been earmarked for the site of a scrap metal yard in Willenhall.

The existing yard buildings at Monmore Recycling in Noose Lane would be cleared away as part of the plans.

The company said it would transfer operations to its base in Wolverhampton to make way for the proposed new homes.

## Jobs

Bosses said the move could result in new jobs as machinery not appropriate for the Noose Lane yard could be installed at the new base.

The applicant behind the scheme, Cadsquare Midlands Ltd, wants to build a mix of 39 two and four-bedroom houses on the land near Willenhall Park.

A road would also be created as part of the scheme, which has been submitted to the planning bosses at Walsall Council.

## Police launch blitz on festive season thieves

A CRIME crackdown on thieves in Walsall town centre has been launched by police to protect Christmas shoppers.

Operation Canticle will run from December 1 to the New Year. More police will be out and about in the town centre in a bid to protect shoppers from opportunistic thieves.

Officers will also be at bus and train stations.

A similar operation last Christmas resulted in several arrests and the recovery of £20,000 worth of counterfeit goods.

Sergeant Greg Evans, of Walsall police, said: "My message to criminals is to stay away from Walsall this year as our officers will be on hand to make sure that you can't spoil anybody's Christmas."

"We are committed to policing the town centre to ensure local businesses and shoppers enjoy the festive season."

"We want to reassure the public that any form of anti-social behaviour and crime will not be tolerated and offenders will be dealt with seriously."

He said police would also work closely with shops and market traders to protect them from shoplifters.

Anyone with information about crime or anti-social behaviour can contact St Matthews neighbourhood policing team on non-emergency number 101 ext 7881 6530.

**Cricket success**

THE expansion of 200-year-old Walsall Cricket Club has been given the go-ahead.

The Birmingham and District Premier League champions will create bigger and better facilities at its Gorway Road ground, including a single-storey extension at the clubhouse.

Walsley's last went into administration in September 2011 when it had 60 stores and 25 were sold, along with its website, to turnaround company SKG Capital in a £250,000 deal.

Stores in Dudley and Stafford were among those closed last year. Walsley Furnishing had previously been bought by Unibrook in 2005 when it had gone into administration.

Walsley's was founded in 1933. The chain's head office is at the Walsall branch. A customer helpline has been set up on (01922) 704113.

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## Family heirlooms stolen by burglars



David Shaw 67, pictured holding a watch similar to the one that belonged to his late father, Ronald David Shaw, and was stolen from his house during a burglary

THIEVES ransacked the homes of two pensioners in Willenhall and stole irreplaceable jewellery and medals given to their deceased parents.

Windows were smashed to get inside the homes of 67-year-old David Shaw and 76-year-old James Wallis during burglaries that police believe are linked.

A watch was stolen from Mr Shaw's home. It was given to his late father, Ronald Shaw, for his 30-year service to British Rail. The watch has Ronald's name engraved on the back.

Precious items stolen from Mr Wallis' home included two silver engraved medals given to his father by for growing food during the Second World War.

**Mementos**

Mr Wallis said it was one of the last mementos he had left from his father, Joseph Wallis, who worked for Walsall Lock and Cart Gear and died in 1966, aged 55.

A gold watch given to his late stepfather, Alfred Ordridge, in honour of his long service to London, Midland and Scottish Railway was also stolen.

"They threw a brick at the kitchen window to smash it and ransacked the house," he said. Thieves also took two silver napkin rings and Mr Wallis' birth certificate when they raided his home between November 5 and 6. They struck at Mr Shaw's address on November 14 between 2pm and 10pm.

Police believe both are linked to a third burglary in Coppice Lane.

## Pupils shun school food

MORE than half of pupils in Walsall are shunning school meals - prompting calls for them to be improved.

A review of the £1.1 million-a-year catering service has concluded better food must be served. Suggested improvements include continual training for cooks and better monitoring of spending.

The council's school catering service provides 66 schools with around 7,500 meals a day over 190 days.

Take-up of free meals across all schools was 82 per cent in 2011 to 2012, while it was just 28 per cent for paid-for dishes. This resulted in an overall take-up of just 44 per cent.

Council leader Mike Bird said: "We will continue to provide meals, there are children in the borough for who it is the only hot meal. But we have got to make improvements."

## Club expands

A RUGBY club in Walsall has plans to expand its grounds. Two pitches will be created at Veseys RFC's base in Streety.

Bosses said the expansion had been prompted by the popularity of its junior teams.

Plans have been submitted to Walsall Council to expand the Little Hardwick Road site

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## Thief is jailed for car raids

A THIEF from Willenhall who raided three cars has been convicted by a court and jailed for 30 weeks.

Kenneth Bateman, aged 35, stole fishing tackle worth £1,000, a sat nav system, clothing, a handbag and jewellery in the thefts in Cannock on September 28.

He was caught because he was seen at the wheel of a car driving while disqualified and without insurance.

A previous hearing at the Cannock court was told Bateman was reported to police by driving instructor Terence Love who recognised him in a traffic queue.

He also reported seeing Bateman steal items from a blue Peugeot.

Police found items stolen from cars in Cannock when they stopped him and his car. Bateman was on licence for another offence.

### Evidence

He was convicted for driving while disqualified, without insurance and for three thefts.

Defending, Mr Alistair Derry argued there was insufficient evidence linking Bateman to the thefts. He told the bench: "There is no evidence my client was ever there. There's no evidence my client was anywhere near those vehicles." However, magistrates convicted Bateman of three thefts and the driving charges.

Bateman, of Bloxwich Road North, was jailed for 30 weeks for stealing from cars and 26 weeks for driving while disqualified. These are to run concurrently. He was banned from driving for two years.

## New restaurant opens in town

A RESTAURANT has opened in place of a former venue in Walsall town centre, creating 15 jobs.

Paprikana has been launched at Town Hill following a £90,000 investment to create an eatery for up to 140 people.

It replaces The Ditch Restaurant and Piano Bar which closed earlier this year.

The restaurant has undergone a two-month refurbishment to ensure it was open ahead of Christmas.

It specialises in Indian and pan-Asian food and is operating over two floors, with room downstairs for parties.

Manager Akhter Ali, from Walsall, said the plans to open such a restaurant had been in the pipeline for almost a decade, but they have only now found the right location.

# Killer's motive may remain a mystery

JUDGE John Warner jailed Charlotte Frazier-Doody for life for the brutal murder of Willenhall war hero Bill Davis and ordered that she must serve at least 20 years.

He told her at Wolverhampton Crown Court: "Only two people know the true circumstances of what happened and one of those is no longer living. You have not provided any information."

"He was savagely beaten to death by you using some sort of substantial object. The injuries to the hands of Mr Davis showed how he tried to protect himself. He was desperately

grabbing your hair but he was no match for you and whatever weapon you were using."

"The harrowing way the life of Mr Davis was ended deeply shocked the local community and has had a profound effect on his family."

### Ferocity

"The motive will remain a mystery unless you decide at some stage to say what happened and why. The crime was probably committed for gain but I cannot be certain."

However, a distinctive feature was the ferocity and manner of the attack on a vulnerable old gentleman in his own home."

Grandfather and great-grandfather Mr Davis, born in Portobello, saw Second World War action at Dunkirk, was involved in the relief of Malta and was 150 miles off the coast of Japan when the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima.

On leaving the navy he returned to Willenhall to work in the lock industry and retired at the age of 72. His wife of 63 years, Clara, died in 2006 aged 88.

# Governors backing Dame Mo despite guilty ruling

BARR Beacon School has backed superhead Dame Mo Brennan after she was found guilty of unacceptable professional conduct. Governors say they are "100 per cent behind" her.



Dame Mo Brennan

## Head could face a ban

DAME Mo Brennan faces another week of waiting to hear her fate after being found guilty of unacceptable professional conduct when head at Hillcrest School.

Mitigation was being heard in the case of the Barr Beacon School headteacher.

Paprikana has been launched at Town Hill following a £90,000 investment to create an eatery for up to 140 people. It replaces The Ditch Restaurant and Piano Bar which closed earlier this year.

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It specialises in Indian and pan-Asian food and is operating over two floors, with room downstairs for parties.

Manager Akhter Ali, from Walsall, said the plans to open such a restaurant had been in the pipeline for almost a decade, but they have only now found the right location.

It emerged last week that she could be banned from teaching after a Teaching Agency panel ruled she was guilty of making "inappropriate alterations" to attendance registers for pupils at Hillcrest School in Nether-ton, where she was head-teacher between 2004 and 2007. She was awarded the title of Dame in 2005 for her work in transforming the failing Dudley school.

She was found guilty alongside colleagues Shelley Derham and Linda Westwood, all of whom now work at Barr Beacon in Aldridge.

Panel chairman Susan Netherton said: "The misconduct is of a serious nature falling significantly short of the standards of behaviour required of a teacher."

But the panel members dismissed allegations that records were manipulated to suggest a false improvement in GCSE grades.

### Disappointed

Governors at Barr Beacon are backing Dame Mo, who had denied the allegations, and said they would be giving evidence in her favour.

Councillor Mike Bird, speaking for the governors, said: "We are disappointed with the result of the hearing, which was into something that happened over nine years ago."

"We are 100 per cent confident Mo is the best head-teacher we have ever seen at the school. As a governing body we are not happy with the wording of the ruling, which uses the word dishonest. We want to welcome her back into Barr Beacon School where she can continue doing good work."

## Jive talkin' at new dance class



Leading the new jive class at Pelsall Community Centre is dance instructor Richard Jackson from Norton Canes with partner Deborah Southan from Willenhall

BUDDING dancers inspired by Strictly Come Dancing can try out their smooth moves at a new modern jive class which has launched in Walsall.

Modern jive is one of the fastest growing dance styles across the country.

Classes have now launched in Pelsall Community Centre, in Station Road, on Tuesday evenings.

They can, says co-organiser Deborah Southan, be an ideal night out for singletons.

"One of the best things about modern jive is if you're single or your partner doesn't want to go dancing, you can come along on your own because everyone swaps partners every so often," she said.

### Meet

"Everyone is very friendly and it's a great way to keep fit and meet new people."

She added: "I would probably describe it as being like what you see on Dirty Dancing - with everyone up on the dance floor doing their own moves."

The classes start at 8pm for beginners and continue later for intermediates.

During the evening, there are freestyle sessions, when the music is turned up and the lights go down.

These are taught by Richard Jackson, who qualified last month and has formed RD Jive with Ms Southan.

Classes cost £4 for the first time and £6 thereafter.

## NEWS

### in brief

#### Christmas choral concert of carols

WILLENHALL Lock Museum will ring out to the sound of Christmas carols as Willenhall Musical Society return to perform at the museum for the third year in a row this Saturday.

The choir will sing a medley of festive songs at the venue in New Road on Saturday evening.

The concert will be conducted by musical director Justine Clarke and will feature accompanist Bridget Tait and will start from 7pm.

For more information call concert organiser Pat Small on 01902 634522.

#### Society of artists put work on show

THE 63rd annual exhibition of the Walsall Society of Artists opens tonight (Thursday) at the New Art Gallery.

There are 186 works on display on the fourth floor of the gallery, including oil paintings, watercolours, acrylics, pastels, mixed media, ink and wash, wood carving, pottery and craftwork, with many for sale.

The free exhibition will be open to the public from tomorrow (Friday) and continues until January 13.

#### Weekend's cycle rides are planned

THE Cycle Touring Club Walsall's family group is inviting cyclists to join them for an easy paced 12-miler, starting from Oak Park Leisure Centre, in Lichfield Road, Walsall Wood, at 9.30am on Saturday.

The club then has a 40-mile Christmas ride on Sunday. It sets off from C&G at Anchor Road, Aldridge, at 9.30am and takes in a coffee stop at Fradley Canal Junction and lunch at the Royal Oak at Barton Green. Dave Woodcock will lead.

#### Ramblers head round the Wrekin

WALSALL Group of the Ramblers will be heading round the Wrekin for an eight and a half mile circular walk in Shropshire this Sunday.

It is described as a "moderate" walk with a climb to the top of the Wrekin hill for a splendid panorama of the Shropshire countryside and then down paths to Little Wenlock.

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## NEWS

## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



WONDERFUL line from Derek Jacobi as the Yorkshire pensioner in *Last Tango in Halifax* (BBC1). He runs a finger along the lines of boys in his old school photograph muttering: "He's dead, he's dead." And then he lowers his voice because what's coming next is even worse than death: "He went down South."

□□□□□□□□

A TALE of tatters. News reaches me of a lady whose washing machine and tumble dryer gave up the ghost at the same time. The repair man explained it would cost him at least £40 to dispose of them. The alternative, he suggested, was to leave the appliances on the drive in the hope that the scrap-metal men would take them overnight. The lady declared sniffily that it was not that sort of neighbourhood but agreed to go along with the plan. So the repair man heaved the washing machine out of the house and on to the drive and went back inside for the dryer. By the time he came out with the tumble dryer a few minutes later, the washing machine had gone.

□□□□□□□□

AM I the only male who sniggers at the opening of the Marks & Spencer Christmas TV advert? It's the one where four women throw two snowballs each at the camera, and not one of them manages to hit it. Snowballs - it's a bloke thing.

□□□□□□□□

A NOTE in the windshield of an abandoned car at our local ford read: "Broke down due to flood". Or possibly due to idiot.

□□□□□□□□

IMPERTINENCE is a word you rarely hear these days. It went with the age of deference. It's the sort of word the dowager countess (Maggie Smith) would use in Downton Abbey if a chambermaid spoke without being spoken to. We heard it a few days ago when Philip Davies MP dared to ask His Imperial Serenity Milord Patten whether he might consider keeping a record to show exactly how much work he does for his £110,000 a year as chairman of the BBC Trust. It seems a modest request. It is, after all, what every employee of the BBC and in every other workplace is expected to do. But Lord Patten who is responsible for overseeing a Corporation which gets £4,000 million a year from the licence payers, was clearly horrified. He delivered the line: "I think that's a thoroughly impertinent question" with a blend of bewilderment and fury that even Dame Maggie would envy. Prove that one is working? The very idea.

□□□□□□□□

I SUGGESTED Scotland might one day sue England for 40 years of not giving Scotland a fair share of North Sea oil and gas revenues. A reader thunders: "What about suing the Scots for the cost of building Hadrian's Wall to keep them out?" Calm down, lads. It's only a referendum.

□□□□□□□□

STILL in Scotland, the authorities are searching for a name for the new Forth Road Bridge which is currently known by the rather drab name of the Forth Replacement Crossing. A reader points out that as the Forth already has four major crossings, this new one could be called the Fifth Forth Bridge, or even the Forth Fifth Bridge. I find myself reminded of that great Scottish football score: East Fife four, Forfar five.

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star**

## Care home worker stole from residents

A CARE home worker stole cash and personal belongings from residents and staff to help fund her drug habit.

Gemma Davis was working at Lakeview Care Home in Great Wyrley when she took wallets, purses, cash, a memory stick and toiletries. Davis was arrested after CCTV was installed.

The 26-year-old, of Abbotts Place in Bloxwich, had worked at the home since 2007 but became addicted to cannabis earlier this year. She sobbed at Cannock Magistrates' Court as a list of seven theft charges - all of which she pleaded guilty to - was read out.

Giles Rowden, prosecuting, said: "She had stolen varying

quantities of money from residents and items from members of staff. This is a significant breach of trust considering the circumstances involved."

The thefts included £40 cash, a computer memory stick, a purse and contents to the value of £40, a wallet containing bank cards, two more purses and toiletries.

Steve Sheldon, defending Davis, said: "She's the first to accept she has a serious drug problem. She became addicted to cannabis earlier this year and owed money."

The case was adjourned for three weeks for a report from probation services to be compiled. Davis, who was given unconditional bail, will return to court on December 17.



Stole - Gemma Davis

## Machine to boost survival chances

A NEW defibrillator has been bought for Walsall Gala Baths with support of the British Heart Foundation.

The machine, costing about £1,000, delivers a controlled electric shock through the chest wall to get the heart back into a normal rhythm.

Research shows that applying a controlled shock within five minutes of collapse improves chances of recovery. Early defibrillation can keep a patient alive while waiting for emergency services to arrive.

## Safety

Walsall Council leisure boss Anthony Harris said thousands visited the baths each year and it was a fantastic addition to public safety. "We'd like to say thanks to the BHF for raising the money for the equipment," he added.

BHF fundraising manager Warren Appleby said: "BHF are committed to placing automated external defibrillators in public places and we are delighted to do so for Walsall Gala Baths. So many people suffer heart attacks around the UK every year. Their chances of survival dwindle with every minute that passes before emergency services arrive."

"Having more defibrillators available locally for these emergencies is crucial to saving more lives."

## Firm pleads guilty over lost fingers

A COMPANY has admitted a breach of general duty after a teenager lost three fingers and a thumb.

It happened while the 17-year-old was cleaning a 10 inch semi-automatic bandsaw at JSF Stainless Ltd in Chase Road, Brownhills.

Two of the teenager's fingers were sewn back on and the third used to graft onto the thumb.

The firm pleaded guilty at Walsall Magistrates Court last week to an employer breaching its general duty to an employee.

Director Richard Lancaster pleaded not guilty to a similar charge.

The case was adjourned until December 17 for a pre-trial review.

## Student flats plan at British Oak pub site

AN EMPTY pub on the edge of Walsall town centre could be transformed into student accommodation under new plans. The British Oak in John Steet was put on the market almost 18 months ago.

It was one of more than a dozen pubs in the West Midlands - with a combined value of £2 million - put up for sale in July last year by Birmingham-based Penn Street Taverns.

The Walsall pub's market freehold was £125,000.

The derelict site is now set to become a three-storey apartment block.

Another four apartments are set to be built next door.

## College

It is hoped that students from nearby Walsall College will take up the flats, but they will also be available for others to rent.

There will be a mix of one to five-bedroom apartments in the main block.

Tristan Plant, of Lapworth Architects Ltd, said: "The proposed design will make good use of a vacant brownfield site."

"The site is located in a highly sustainable town centre location and is close to the college."

by Craig Hughes

"The building is intended to provide student accommodation or rented accommodation to serve the local area."

"Like many public houses all over England, this public house on the application site is no longer viable and has ceased trading."

"The property is vacant and has no further potential as licensed premises."

It comes after it recently emerged that another pub in Walsall town centre that closed its doors last year is being reopened after bosses of a brewery in Brownhills stepped in.

The Fountain Inn, in Lower Forster Street, is the first pub to be taken over by the owners of Backyard Brewery as part of the firm's expansion.

Around £50,000 is being spent during the refurbishment.

## Store group growing

WALSALL-BASED One Stop Stores increased its turnover by more than £100 million in the year to February 25.

The convenience store chain, owned by Tesco, had sales of £663m compared to £551.1m the year before.

The chain, which has more than 600 stores across England and Wales and employs more than 7,000, made pre-tax profit of £28.2m, up £7m on 2010-2011.

One Stop, which has its head office at Apex Road, Brownhills, was created by Tesco in 2003 after it bought the old T&S Stores chain.

One Stop opened 103 new stores in 2011-12, with 76 being bought in a £20m deal from the Mills Group.

The firm said it has long-term plans for the business and over the next three years will keep developing a store opening programme. There were also plans to invest in existing stores.

## The pies have it for brothers



Mark and Steve Turner, of Turners Butchers, in Pelsall, were highly rated at the Staffordshire and Birmingham Agricultural Society's winter food awards

AN award-winning family butchers has struck gold again after wowing judges with their range of sausages and pies.

George Turner & Sons, of High Street, Pelsall, scooped the top award five times during the recent Staffordshire and Birmingham Agricultural Society's winter fair.

It was held at the Stafford County Showground when the appearance and taste of products were considered by food experts.

The gold award was given for the plain pork sausage, pork and duck pie, beef and horse radish sausage, traditional pork pie and Pelsall old English sausage.

The business is run by brothers Mark and Stephen Turner.

Mark said: "We were very pleased. It is nice we are still keeping the quality and the standards of our products up. The judges don't give these ratings lightly."

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## New guide to courses is launched

A NEW prospectus has now been launched for Walsall College.

The V6 Young Persons' Course Guide for 2013 to 2014 lists all the full-time courses, ranging from GCSEs and NVQs to apprenticeships and BTECs offered at the two campuses.

Subjects include business, creative arts, hair and beauty, childcare, health and social care, public services, construction, science, sport and travel.

### Listened

Focus groups were conducted during the process to find out what learners wanted from a prospectus. It also includes case studies.

June Morrow, director of student journey at Walsall College, said: "We listened to what students wanted, took on their feedback and have produced an informative guide to help prospective learners make the important decisions they are faced with once they finish their GCSEs."

Careers evenings have been taking place.

The V6 Course Guide can be picked up from the college's campuses in Littleton Street and Green Lane.

## Lions roar into action

A COMMUNITY group in Aldridge will be visiting local supermarkets as part of its annual Christmas charity appeal for donations.

Members of the Aldridge and District Lions Club will be appealing to generous shoppers for bucket donations for various charities.

They are hoping to raise between £1,000 and £2,000, having already given more than £8,000 to nearly 30 different organisations this financial year.

President Harry Fry said: "This is a major opportunity during the year when we are able to collect funds for our charity work. It is potentially the largest income we are able to generate and our members are out and about each weekend leading up to Christmas raising cash for a worthwhile charitable cause."

### Pleck patrols

YOUTHS who are causing trouble along a busy road in Walsall are being targeted by police patrols.

Officers have had complaints about gangs hanging around Wolverhampton Road, in Pleck.

# Report says fountain should make way for market



The Source of Ingenuity

THE infamous fountain standing in the heart of Walsall town centre could be moved to make way for the market, according to a report.

The Source of Ingenuity, on The Bridge, may have to move following recommendations to relocate the 800-year-old market there permanently.

The fountain was the controversial centrepiece of the £2 million transformation of the Civic Square in 2001 but no water has flown from it for more than five years due to contamination fears.

The move was suggested by independent

experts brought in to analyse the future of the 100-stall town centre market.

They believe the market should permanently relocate to The Bridge and Bradford Street.

### Controversial

Regeneration chief Councillor Adrian Andrew said: "This idea involves moving the fountain which some might say is controversial but businesses I've spoken to in the town centre are quite happy to see it go."

Independent consultants from GVA and The

Retail Group carried out a report on Walsall Market, which has to move due to regeneration work on the Old Square Shopping Centre.

Experts found that the current pitch in parts of Digbeth and The Bridge to be "poor quality, confusing, sprawling and not a good advert for Walsall".

Various sites were considered for an indoor market but The Bridge was found to be the best option but the experts warned that it would require a cash injection of around £1.1m to help it thrive.

# Youngster Ben battles brain tumour relapse

A TEENAGER from Walsall, who overcame a brain tumour discovered when he was aged eight, has suffered a relapse, sparking a community campaign to help the youngster.

## Incentive to open up in town centre

NEW businesses are being offered 12 months rent free if setting up in Walsall town centre.

Council bosses have launched a £100,000 scheme to tackle empty buildings. Nine properties in Victorian Arcade, Goodall Street and St Paul's Street are up for grabs.

Any new firm that takes on a site in the town centre with a five-year lease will now get a year's free rent.

Those which take up a three-year lease will be given six months free rent, while business rate relief will be offered for up to six months.

Funding awarded to Walsall Council from the Government's £10 million High Street Innovation Fund is behind the scheme.

Latest figures show 88 premises standing empty in the town centre.

Budding entrepreneurs are now invited to submit their applications to take over one of the units.

Walsall Town Team Member Nick Parkinson said: "This project will see the private and public sector joining forces to support and nurture new start up businesses. It will also support existing small businesses looking to relocate into Walsall town centre."

Contact the team by calling (01922) 654323.

Ben Sambrook, from Aldridge, was diagnosed with a malignant tumour the size of a golf ball more than five years ago. It led to his parents, Sharon and Steve Sambrook, launching the The Ben Sambrook Trust Fund which has raised more than £90,000 towards brain tumour research.

A recent hospital scan revealed he had suffered a relapse.

The Aldridge School pupil, now 13, initially had weeks of radiotherapy, months of chemotherapy and two operations to remove the tumour before he was given a clean bill of health. But a routine scan at Birmingham Children's Hospital revealed the tumour was growing again.

### Shock

He had another operation to remove 90 per cent of the tumour and is now having chemotherapy. He has a further scan next month.

Mrs Sambrook, aged 43, said: "He has been clear for five years. It was just a shock when we found out but we will never give up. He's had to deal with an awful lot but he's doing really well."

"He's bright and bubbly in himself and responding to treatment," said his mother, who works for the charity Scope, supporting parents of children with disabilities.

"A group of male teachers at Cooper and Jordan Primary School are doing a sponsored leg wax and a friend of mine is raising money by doing the London Marathon," she added.

Anyone wanting to raise cash or donate to Ben's fund can call 07910 752860.



Packing shoeboxes for under-privileged children abroad are Queen Mary's pupils Priya Boparai, Mai Lam, Aaradhya Amarthalur, Emma Joyce, Fatima Miah, Samranjit Padda, Simran Johal, Hannah Watts, and Abigail Scott

## Students support shoebox project

PUPILS at a school in the Black Country packed shoeboxes full of treats to send to under-privileged children across the world as part of a charity appeal.

Students at Queen Mary's High School, in Upper Forster Street, Walsall, filled 281 shoeboxes.

They packed them full of toiletries, toys, clothing and stationery in aid of Operation Christmas Child, organised by Christian charity Samaritan's Purse.

### Record

Steven Hensley, a science teacher at the school, said: "It's the third year I've been involved with it now. It's something which is done every year at the school."

"We have collected 281 shoeboxes and have smashed our record. We've never gone over 200 before."

"All the forms contributed and we are really pleased."

"It was done over the period of about a month. It's amazing really."

The shoeboxes are delivered to youngsters in dozens of countries, ranging from Belarus in Eastern Europe to Swaziland in Africa.

## NEWS in brief

### Bright new store creating 19 jobs

A CONVENIENCE store in Walsall has opened creating 19 new jobs.

The Midcounties Co-operative has opened the new store in Broadway Road, Fullbrook, and children from a nearby nursery cut the ribbon.

Youngsters from Fullbrook Nursery School were invited to open the store with Daisy Clayton and Corie Dawkins-Middleton chosen to mark their fourth birthdays.

The store, which has a post office and in-store bakery, is one of the first convenience stores in the UK to use LED lighting throughout.

### Crafty Christmas museum sessions

CREATIVE craft workshops for children will get them in the Christmas spirit at Walsall Museum this month.

Staff will be on hand to help the youngsters make a selection of items festive as gifts for the festive season during the Saturday events.

The drop-in sessions will be held this Saturday and on December 15 between 11am and 1pm, costing 75p. A parent or carer must be present. For details call 01922 653116.

### Helping hands on school allotments

OLD allotments have been given a makeover thanks to recycling plant workers.

Staff from Interserve lent a helping hand and equipment on the former allotments at King Charles Primary School in Bentley.

Walsall Housing Group, with British Gas and BT, plan to convert a wooded area next to the school into an education and community resource.

### Car showroom at former library site

A CAR dealership is to open on the former Walsall Wood Library site, creating seven jobs.

Motorland 2008 Ltd has received permission from Walsall Council for the showroom in Lichfield Road.

The library was replaced with a £170,000 new building in Coppice Road almost five years ago.

### Party fundraiser

A Halloween-themed party raised £400 for St Giles Walsall Hospice.

Katie Mills held a fancy dress event which included raffles and an auction.



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## NEWS

# Next step in bid for new hospital unit

A £5.5 million intensive care unit at Walsall Manor Hospital has taken a step forward after bosses approved the business case.

The 16-bed West Wing unit would create nursing jobs. Hospital chief Richard Kirby said it was one of the last remaining phases in the transformation of the Moat Road hospital that had a £174m rebuild two years ago.

There are 12 intensive care beds in two areas of the wing but these are described as "not fit for purpose".

Mr Kirby said: "Our current unit is not designed to the standards we want it to be. We've been working for the last year or so to come up with the business plan."

He believed a new unit was still 18 months to two years away from opening.

Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust board last week backed the outline business plan. It still has to go to the Strategic Health Authority for final approval.

Medical director Amir Khan said they were providing the best service at the

current ITU but this will definitely improve things.

It would have a minimum of eight single-patient bedrooms with en suites and two isolation rooms.

The ITU would also include a staff base, kitchen, patient bathroom, counselling rooms and storage space.

It is part of a wider £12m plan to also revamp the hospital's accident and emergency department.

The planned £6m rebuild or revamp of the hospital's A&E is still being assessed, but rooms used for intensive care beds could form part of the long-term plan for A&E.

A&E waiting times, with some patients waiting for more than four hours, are blamed on high emergency activity.

## Movie marathon for charity

PUPILS in Pelsall raised £320 for Children In Need after turning their school into a multi-screen cinema. Youngsters at St Michael's Primary School donated money to take part in a fun-filled afternoon, which included spending time with their friends, watching their favourite films and enjoying popcorn. The afternoon was organised by staff member Lisa McDermott and the school council.

## Students restore engine



Automotive student at Walsall College Meredith Hindson, aged 19, front, and fellow students and industry representatives with the 1956 Bedford fire engine

MORE than 35 students at Walsall College have taken on a restoration project to bring a vintage fire engine back to life.

Over the next 18 months, 37 automotive engineering students will be working on the 1956 Bedford vehicle, which used to serve Wolverhampton's Goodyear tyre plant.

Bosses from the firm have donated the vehicle to the college.

The project was launched last week by Goodyear's chief fire officer at Wolverhampton, Brian Ball. He said: "Seeing a generation of eager engineers helping to restore an important part of our history is nothing short of amazing."

"We anticipate a great launch and we know the achievements of this project will be significant."

The fire engine found its way back to Goodyear in Wolverhampton last year as the company was approached by a collector looking to sell the engine.

The fire engine served Goodyear for more than 15 years before the vehicle was sold in 1971.

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## NEWS

# Government tells council to improve child services

## Blue Santas on the run



Hospice staff don blue Santa suits to encourage more to join the runs

STAFF at a hospice in Walsall have made a plea for volunteers to don blue Santa suits and act as marshals at the charity's runs this weekend.

In aid of Acorns Children's Hospice, they will take place at Brindleyplace, Birmingham, on Saturday and at Walsall Arboretum on Sunday. Participants will be dressing up in blue Santa suits to run or stroll 5km or 2km.

The hospice is looking for people to help from 10am to 2pm.

Philippa Gay, Acorns' major events officer, said: "We also need more people to put on Santa suits and join with colleagues, friends and family to raise money for local children."

Entry for adults is £10 and £5 for under-16s. Call 0844 984 0405 for details.

A NOTICE to improve children's services in Walsall has now officially been served on the council by the Government in response to a damning Ofsted report into the care of vulnerable youngsters.

Inspectors branded Walsall's safeguarding services and its capacity to improve as inadequate following a two-week inspection in June.

Out of a total of 22 judgment areas, eight areas of practice were found to be inadequate and children were found to be at "potential risk of harm".

It has led to the formation of an independent board to oversee improvements in children's services, as required by the improvement notice which is signed by Edward Timpson, parliamentary under secretary of state for children and families.

### Methods

The notice states the council must take action to improve areas of weakness and ensure safeguarding and looked after children's services meet all legislative requirements.

It also says the authority must then make arrangements to "sustain and build on the improvement secured".

Working with partner agencies, the council must demonstrate improvements in the quality and consistency of assessments, set out methods and timescales, develop and implement a risk assessment system and get feedback from children, families and staff.

The notice also states a "comprehensive programme of induction, training, mentoring and continuous professional development" should be implemented to ensure staff have the skills to complete high quality and timely assessments. It mentions the role and leadership of Walsall Safeguarding Board should be strengthened and Edward Timpson must be provided with a written report every six months.

Failure to comply with the notice can lead to further Government intervention.

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## NEWS

# Mapping the past at a new history hub for community



View of the past – pictured at the newly opened Mapseeker Studio in Aldridge are studio manager Philip Bradney, artists Debbie Flenley and Lynn Hughes, graphic artist Steve Toulouse and the studio director Paul Leslie Line

**AN INNOVATIVE business that is the first of its kind in the borough has opened in Aldridge.**

The Mapseeker studio in Aldridge High Street will contain a unique collection of historic maps spanning 400 years of cartography that have been reproduced from antique documents using state-of-the-art technology.

It will be used as an educational resource by schools and six local artists will also be based there, to talk to pupils and visitors.

Paul Leslie Line, managing director for the studio, said: "Teaching our past has never been so engaging."

## Exhibitions

"We see the studio as a social hub for the whole community and look forward to hosting regular evening events, including visiting art exhibitions, guest speakers and book signings," he added.

The six artists who will be based at the studio are Anna Crook, Debbie Flenley, Kate Taylor, Lynn Hughes, Steve Lilly and Victoria France.

The new studio has been supported by the Aldridge Business Partnership and also Walsall Council's town centre management team.

Walsall Council Coalition's portfolio holder for regeneration, Councillor Adrian Andrew said: "This promises to be a fantastic resource tool for local people who are fascinated with history, and an excellent workshop for our local schools."

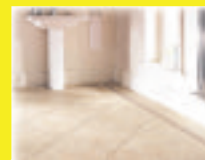
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## REVIEWS

# Studio Ghibli classics on Blu-ray

STUDIO Ghibli is the Japanese equivalent to Disney, an animation studio which consistently makes incredibly imaginative feature length movies, driven by the unique vision and craftsmanship of Hayao Miyazaki.

Ghibli movies tend to be gentler than their western equivalents, slowly unfolding but with periods of intense action and mind-boggling flights of fancy, delivered with quirky humour.

The drawing is of a high quality, combining the detail of pre-digital classics with cute anime style.

This year Ghibli's latest, *Arrietty* (U), moving Mary Norton's children's classic *The Borrowers* to Japan, was released on DVD and Blu-ray.

Meanwhile, the ongoing plan to make the entire Studio Ghibli catalogue available in high definition continues with the double play (that's Blu-ray and DVD) release of the

magical and charming *My Neighbour Totoro* (U). Made in 1988 this spellbinding fantasy involves a girl and her little sister meeting nature spirits.

*The Castle of Cagliostro* (PG), from 1979, is a Europe-set thriller and tells of a daring thief and his gang.

Viewers can choose between English dubbed and subtitled versions.

# Brave choice from new flame-haired princess

**Brave (PG)**

FEISTY flame-haired heroine Merida is the latest Disney Princess and the fearless star of PIXAR Animation Studio's 13th hit movie, now available on DVD, Blu-ray and 3D Blu-ray.

Set in the Scottish Highlands during the Dark Ages, *Brave* is a fabulous looking adventure with plenty of action and lots of humour as the plain-talking clan princess rebels against the marriage plans being made by her mother.

Merida is as handy with a bow as Katniss Everdeen from *The Hunger Games* and roams the beautifully animated Highlands upon her horse.

**Witch**

The head-strong princess defies custom when her royal parents, voiced by Emma Thompson and Billy Connolly, invite the clan chiefs to present their sons as potential suitors, threatening to plunge the land into war.

But the impulsive youngster accidentally brings a beastly curse down upon her mother and brothers when she unwisely consults a batty old witch, voiced by Julie Walters.

Then she must test her bravery against Mor'du, the legendary giant bear who wounded her father, in order to restore her family.



Disney and PIXAR's Scotland-set animated feature *Brave* hits the target

Crowned with an unruly profusion of scarlet curls and given a broad Scots accent by actress Kelly MacDonald, Merida is a memorable character though nearly upstaged by her trio of tiny mischievous brothers.

Disney and PIXAR have combined to create one of the best looking animated features of recent years with *Brave*. It is also one of the best 3D releases so far, creating an immersive 3D world with

rich textures – especially Merida's luxurious locks – rather than resorting to pointy tricks to grab the attention.

All formats feature a wealth of extra features, including bonus feature *The Legend of Mor'du* and the *La Luna* short which accompanied the film in cinema. Also, depending on the format, there are features on the making of the movie and on Scottish legends.

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## NEWS

## Police boxing venture



Coaches Shaun Hargreaves, back, and Lee Sanders get ready for the opening of the Walsall Police Boxing Club AN AMATEUR boxer from Willenhall has been working with the police to set up a new boxing club in Walsall Wood.

Walsall Police Amateur Boxing Club on the Maybrook Industrial Estate, is the brainchild of Shaun Hargreaves, a boxer with over 30 years of experience in and out of the ring. The boxing gym will be open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 6pm and 8.30pm, and weekend afternoons between until 4pm.

Pc Alan Poole said: "To finally see the club finished and open is such an achievement and pleasure, especially in current times of financial constraints. I have been personally touched by the sheer generosity of people who have offered their time and support, both financially and in other ways."

"A special thank you to Aldridge-based charity, Rosie's Helping Hands for their kind donation of £1,000, and to Build Blocks, West Midlands Police Charitable Trust, Caldmore Accord Housing and the Co-Op."

"I am confident that the club will become a well used facility and meeting place, not only to train and improve fitness but to make new friends and get to know local officers."

For further details contact Shaun Hargreaves on 07846288393

# 40 homes proposed at former school site

**FORTY new homes could be built on the site of a former primary school, under new plans.**

Beechdale Primary School in Walsall was demolished in 2007 after closing due to poor standards.

The Remington Road site could now be transformed with 40 new homes, set to be built by Accord Housing.

They will be manufactured at Accord's LoCaL Homes factory in Beechdale, just yards away from the former school site.

by Catherine Dalton

## Rent

It comes as the factory, in Stephenson Avenue, celebrates its first anniversary.

A planning application is poised to be submitted within the next month and if approved, the homes would be available for rent for families on housing waiting lists.

Alan Yates, regeneration executive director for Accord Group, said: "In just

a year, we have already manufactured over 60 homes and we are now up to full production, manufacturing one house per day.

"We have also received interest in the product from developers and housing associations up and down the country."

"To have the opportunity to develop 40 new homes in Beechdale just yards from the factory is very exciting and will be a welcome boost to the regeneration of the area."

## Blues tickets auction at quiz

A PAIR of tickets for a Birmingham City match are to be auctioned off in the run up to Willenhall Town Football Club's annual Christmas quiz on Saturday night.

The tickets for the Blue's match on December 15 against Crystal Palace were donated by the Championship club to help the Lock Men's fundraising. Bidding will be carried out in the run up to the quiz at Short Heath Royal British Legion Church Road from 7pm. For more information or to bid email WTFclubsec@aol.co.uk

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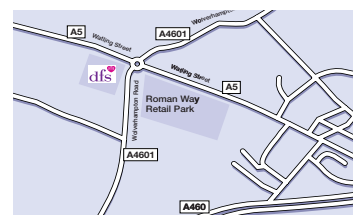
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## LETTERS

## Council should get own house in order

I note with some wonderment the overzealous practices currently employed by Walsall Council regarding the emptying of the green recycling bins.

Before the council continues this Draconian step I would remind them that they should get their own house in order. I question where in Walsall's parks are there bins specifically for certain types of waste? I have watched refuse lorries empty the large commercial waste bins and this seems to be full of waste that could be recycled.

Can I ask whether waste is divided within

council offices and carefully monitored by the Stasi (sorry, bin police)?

I read an open letter from Eric Pickles this week abhorring the approach of local councils and in particular its bin inspectors. As he mentioned, it is a human right enshrined within Public Health Acts to get your refuse taken away, so I would suggest that the council comply with this requirement. We will not forget at the next local elections.

DAVID LAW  
Moncrieffe Street  
Walsall

## Bin snoop tactics are a 'disgrace'

I am very annoyed with the 'wildcat' tactics employed by Walsall's recycling teams. My sister-in-law witnessed a near accident when one of these abandoned green bins blew over, spilling rubbish over the road. Surely it would be more responsible to have emptied these bins and put these yellow stickers on afterwards?

More rubbish will now be going to landfill and less will be recycled. Not everyone can get to the council tip and pensioners will be forced to hoard rubbish.

I have been told the council is now sending out snoops to look in everyone's bin and I find this disgraceful. We have too much packaging these days and the bigger bin will be needed if we now have to dispose of it as rubbish. This goes against the whole idea of recycling, which is to reduce landfill. Companies are introducing so many types of packaging you would need to be a petrochemist to know what is recyclable and what is not. I think Walsall council has upset a lot of its residents and a bit more notice ought to have been given.

JOHN W BRISTOW  
Castle Drive  
Willenhall

## LETTERS to the Editor

## POST

Walsall Chronicle, Chronicle  
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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

## 'Damping' means region loses out on police funding

ONE of the main challenges facing policing in the West Midlands is financial. In addition to recent cuts, the police are hindered by a funding mechanism called "damping" that stops the West Midlands receiving the full settlement the government's own funding formula says we need.

If we can get a reasonable financial settlement then we can restart recruitment and end the compulsory retirement of police officers in the next financial year. If we do not get a fair deal then money currently spent in the West Midlands will, thanks to "damping", be sent to areas of the country with much lower levels of need.

The Autumn Statement is just a few days away, and the announcement on police funding follows soon after. I have written to the Chancellor of the Exchequer seeking a fair deal for policing in the West Midlands.

I encourage others to do the same; we need to make sure that the Chancellor, Home Secretary and Policing Minister all understand that we need a fair financial settlement for the West Midlands.

You can find out more about my campaign for a Fair Deal for Policing on my website ([www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk)).

BOB JONES  
West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner

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## MEMORY LANE



Coal mining was once an important industry in Little Bloxwich, pictured are Fishley Colliery workers, about 1900



Football has long been popular in the village. Here are members of Little Bloxwich Football Club, about 1929



'Good Stabling' is advertised at The Canal Tavern, Stoney Lane, Little Bloxwich, seen in the 1920s



Rural Stoney Lane, Little Bloxwich, in the 1930s

# Little Bloxwich was original settlement

THE HAMLET of Little Bloxwich is less obvious than it once was, but the distinction between this settlement and Bloxwich village was drawn as far back as 1300.

Then Bloxwich and Great Bloxwich were referred to and the smaller Bloxwich is recorded as 'Little' from 1307. Probably the original settlement, it had its own common fields.

By the late 1700s Little Bloxwich lay in the area around Little Bloxwich Lane (now Lichfield Road), Stoney Lane and Selman's Hill. Prominent around Little Bloxwich Green from Victorian times were the original Nag's Head pub, the Canal Tavern, the Post Office, a scattering of houses and shops.

Lower Farm (Arch's Farm) was once centred on a late-medieval cruck-trussed farmhouse in Stoney Lane. It was demolished in 1963.

The Walsall to Stafford coaching road originally ran through Little Bloxwich. The road, which had a coaching inn (the King William, closed 1904) in Fishley Lane, was

by Stuart Williams

turnpiked in 1766, then altered to run through Great Bloxwich.

The Wyrley and Essington Canal runs through Little Bloxwich and by the 1880s there was a canal basin off Fishley Lane. In the late 1800s/early 1900s there was coal mining in Fishley to the north of Little Bloxwich, and a steam mill near the basin.

Selman's Hill and Sanstone Road contain between the wars private houses. After the Second World War Little Bloxwich became largely mixed council and private housing. Lower Farm Estate centres on nine blocks of low-rise council flats completed in 1963. An award-winning block of shops and maisonettes was built at the same time.

The Rector of Bloxwich held services at the Saddler's Arms pub on Lower Farm from 1963 and the mission church of Holy Ascension in Sanstone Road opened in 1968. Lower Farm Primary School also opened that year.

Little Bloxwich C of E Primary School opened in Grenfell Road in 1971, preceded by the nearby 1877 Little Bloxwich National School, Pelsall Lane, recently demolished.

During the 1980s much council housing in Little Bloxwich was sold off to the tenants. What remains rented is managed by Walsall Housing Group.

Today, Arch's Farm's horse chestnut tree in Stoney Lane, the canal bridge with its coat of arms, the former post office, Alms Houses in Lichfield Road and cottages in Pelsall Lane are the only built remnants of old Little Bloxwich, but the ancient hamlet still lives on in spirit – and on the map!

Prints of pictures in this feature and thousands more are available to purchase by special order from Walsall Local History Centre. For local and family history, drop into the centre in Essex Street, part of Walsall Council. Telephone (01922) 721305 or for more information go online to [www.walsall.gov.uk/localhistorycentre](http://www.walsall.gov.uk/localhistorycentre)



Lower Farm Farmhouse in 1955 with the horse chestnut tree that remains in Stoney Lane after the house was demolished in 1963



The Nag's Head pub (right) at Little Bloxwich Green, early 1900s.

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Examples of tree in a bag shown

### TRYSELL & SEISDON WI

'JERUSALEM' was sung at the beginning of the November meeting after which, visitors and a new member were welcomed.

President Sue Cotterall introduced the speaker and demonstrator for the evening, Linda Jackson.

Linda is a member of Trysell and Seisdon WI and her theme was 'Christmas Tree in a Bag'.

Linda had recently joined the 'Bantock Bodgers', a local group who meet once a week 'rag rugging' and Linda had made a Christmas tree using the method.

Linda assembled the tree, filling it with holly and a variety of Christmas decorations.

Linda created a number of floral decorations including a 'Byzantine' Christmas tree using spruce and a variety of foliage, the biggest cupcake with flowers including smaller cupcakes to fit on the cake stand, a splendid 'tree house', using winter white rose, a pink Christmas door wreath.

The floral arrangements were raffled and the winners were Liz, Peggy, Freda, Sue, Pauline, Barbara, Doreen, Ena and Freda Fellows.

A cuppa and a cake rounded off the evening in true WI style.

The group WI Carol Service will be held at Swindon on December 15 at 3pm. The next WI meeting is on Thursday December 13, the Christmas dinner party.

# Members are told of Christmas traditions

### CODSALL WOOD WI

PRESIDENT Beryl Atkins welcomed everyone to the November meeting. A party went to Bridgmore Garden Centre and thoroughly enjoyed the day, despite the awful weather.

After the business Beryl welcomed Gemm Oakley, from Shugborough, collections assistant at the County Museum. There are more than 28,000 objects and 46,000 photographs there, including social history objects, agricultural objects, costumes and vehicles. They are all to do with Staffordshire, either made in the county or used by people who live there.

Gemm went on to describe the traditional Christmas. During the medieval period Christmas lasted for 12 days which is the time it took for the gifts to welcome Christ into the world. By the time Queen Victoria died gifts and cards had developed. Christmas cards first came in the 1840s.

Food also developed. Goose and swan were popular among the wealthy. Turkey came about during the 18th and 19th centuries. Christmas puddings were originally made of meat. By 1595 it was known as plum pudding. Mince pies used to be made of meat and poultry.

Christmas crackers were a Victorian invention by Tom Smith in 1846, while Father Christmas appeared in 1870s.

Gemm had brought along many old Christmas cards, which mainly were illustrated with the coming of spring. The competition of a Christmas decoration was won by Hazel Bristow, second was Margaret Britton.



Shugborough collections assistant Gemma Oakley was guest speaker

# Ladies enjoy retail therapy

MEMBERS celebrated the 17th birthday in October and were entertained by Mr Proudman with songs from the shows. Afterwards, they all enjoyed a bring and share buffet lunch.

November's business was followed by a talk from Roger Brooks, of Wiltshire

### SEDGLEY MORNING TG

Farm Foods. In November, a party of members took a trip to Masson Mills Shopping Outlet near Matlock, Derbyshire which is housed in an old Cotton Mill. Despite a

foggy start, it lifted enough to allow members to get a good view of the Derbyshire Dales. The ladies enjoyed a few hours of retail therapy and some visited the Mill Museum.

The Christmas lunch is at The Kingfisher Restaurant, on December 13.

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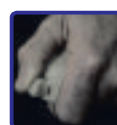
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## VIDEO GAMES

# Start your engines



The Fairhaven PD will be watching you in **Most Wanted F1 2012**



Make your mark at Monza in Birmingham-made **F1 2012**

**THE new version of the official Formula One racing sim from Birmingham-based Codemasters has a Young Drivers Test option.**

It gently introduces newcomers to the subtle nuances of driving very powerful racing cars putting you at the wheel of a Red Bull, Ferrari or McLaren at Abu Dhabi's Yas Marina.

Once the tutorials are done and you know how to get the best from the car, you can hit the circuits, including new for this year the Circuit of the Americas in Texas. It gets as deep and detailed as you like, which starts as soon as you swap from automatic to manual. When you take the game seriously you will have to know your KERS (Kinetic Energy Recovery System) from your DRS (Drag Reduction System), and be able to cope with changing weather systems.

The pack includes a VIP pass to join the online Grand Prix.

### F1 Race Stars

The stars of Formula One get turned into cartoons for this karting game from Codemasters. I am not sure who the game is aimed at, it is not crazy enough for the karters and too childish

for F1 fans, even if the tracks are based on actual race locations. You can use your own avatar to race or get behind the wheel as an F1 star instead.

Putting the F1 licence to one side, it is a decent alternative to Mario Kart or the PS3's new Little Big Planet Karting (featuring Sackboy) though not original enough to be essential. There are plenty of split-screen multiplayer options or you can race online.

### Need For Speed Most Wanted

Developers Criterion bring back pedal to the metal thrills in this gorgeous-looking urban street racer.

The open world of Fairhaven city is a petrol head's playground with supercars left unlocked on street corners for you to use in the business of taking on the city's best - ie Most Wanted - drivers so you can join their ranks.

The attention to detail and atmosphere in this EA title is superb, right down to the sound of the engine roar changing when you drive through a tunnel. If you liked the classic Burnout Paradise, you will love this.

There are lots of online racing options and the game is primed for Kinect. And it's got a good musical soundtrack too, including Muse and The Who. It has a pegi rating as suitable for age seven and over.

### Forza Horizon

Forza were always sober, technical racing sims but on Horizon the franchise cuts loose with Playground Games bringing in elements from some of the wilder racing games. It's a bit like your dad getting a nose piercing.

But it's fun, as you race to join the action at the Horizon Festival for those hipsters who feel the need for speed.

The cut scenes are a bit irritating and they could have done with a better music consultant but the game is a good-looking winner thanks to the Forza authenticity, the handling of the cars and the Colorado scenery. It has a pegi rating for age 12 and over.

### WRC FIA World Rally Championship 3

Rally fans may be tempted to play this to see if they can use the new career mode to take someone new to victory, if only in the virtual world, after Frenchman Sebastien Loeb won the actual WRC title for the ninth time in a row.

This is a decent rally sim with locations, teams and cars from the 2012 championship but it lacks the mud-splattered thrills of the Dirt series.

The games are available for various platforms but were reviewed on X360.  
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## BOOKS



Nigella Lawson – Italian inspiration for her latest collection of recipes in Nigellissima

# Festive food and a crafty Christmas

**Make Your Own Christmas Decorations – Cath Kidston**  
(paperback, Quadrille, £15)

THE retro style as typified by the Cath Kidston brand is most definitely on trend these days, and here's a crafty way to bring that Cath Kidston flavour to the festivities instead of the same old tired tinsel.

The book includes all the sewing and embroidery instructions you need, a kit containing a selection of coloured felt in six different shades, pompoms, ribbon and embroidery thread that can be made up into a selection of 12 different ornaments – including a Christmas cottage, ribbon-wrapped present, candy cane, snowman, reindeer, Christmas pudding, holly leaves and a festive Stanley the Kidston dog. All you need is the needle, some stuffing material and a little spare time.

**Nigellissima – Nigella Lawson**  
(hardback, Chatto & Windus, £26)

The divine Nigella dishes up instant Italian inspiration in a richly illustrated book to accompany her latest TV series. Apparently the woman in black considers Italy her gastronomic home after studying Italian at Oxford and a youthful job as a chambermaid in Florence.

There are more than 120 mouthwatering dishes available here and most are easy to prepare with ingredients that are readily available in larger supermarkets.

There are lots of pasta, risottos and simple ways to add some Italian pizzazz, such as Pork Chops with Fennel Seeds and Allspice, all described in Nigella's conversational style. But the recipes really hit celestial heights in the section entitled 'Sweet Things'. Here you can find Sambuca Kisses and a gorgeous Meringue Gelato Cake with Chocolate Sauce.

**The Great British Bake Off: Learn To Bake, 80 Easy Recipes For All The Family – Linda Collister** (hardback, BBC, £18.99)

Lots of viewers have been inspired by BBC Television's The Great British Bake Off, discovering that baking is not only a useful culinary skill but it can bring families together in both the making and eating of homemade cakes and breads.

This selection of cake, pudding, biscuit and pastry recipes is intended to get kids and their parents back in the kitchen and baking.

Step-by-step guides help budding bakers learn techniques for getting the best possible results, from scones and cookies, to honeycomb crunchies and a simple Christmas cake.

Author Linda Collister is a highly experienced cook who trained in Paris and London and she has the approval of 'queen of cakes' Mary Berry, who contributes a foreword.

**Marshmallow Magic – Genevieve Taylor**  
(hardback, Bantam Press, £9.99)

Move over cupcakes, marshmallows are coming back to prove they're not just for campfires or topping steaming mugs of hot chocolate.

This scrumptious collection of sweet confections shows you how to make gourmet treats which it says are cheap and easy to make and even low in fat. So what's not to like!

From traditional marshmallows to such nostalgic favourites as jam 'teacakes' via Turkish Delight to such grown-up versions as the mojito marshmallow, there is plenty of squidgy confection heaven here.

A celebration section also includes special party treats including Christmas Candied Fruit Squares and Chocolate and Cinnamon S'mores, so named because you always want some more.

Leon Burakowski

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## FOCUS ON WILLENHALL

### Silence is golden for chatterbox



Kirstie Wiseman managed to stay silent for a week to raise money for charity

SELF-CONFESSED chatterbox Kirstie Wiseman had a challenge on her hands when she took on a week-long sponsored silence.

The 18-year-old A Level student from Willenhall managed not to utter a single word to raise money for the Alzheimer's Society.

The Coppice Performing Arts student said the challenge was "really hard". Kirstie, of Nightingale Crescent, Coppice Farm, had to communicate using a whiteboard. She decided to raise money for the Alzheimer's Society in memory of her grandmother Brenda Wiseman.

# Get your skates on – town has lights fantastic launch

THOUSANDS of people packed the busy streets of Willenhall as the town celebrated Christmas and the opening of the recently installed heritage trail on Saturday.

The festive fayre centred around Market Street and Stafford Street, bringing together people from across Walsall to enjoy the shopping and entertainment.

Stalls were selling craft and charity goods as gifts for friends and family, whilst street performers and carol singers entertained.

One of the biggest attractions this year was an ice rink that saw more than 300 people take to their skates.

The switch-on of the Christmas lights took place, carried out by the town's new mascot Will En Hall the Bear and members of the traders and community support group who spent months organising the event.

Visitors were also treated to a tour around the 37 plaques that are now on show throughout the town. They provide markers for the historic architecture,

by Tom Mason

trades, people and green spaces that make up the heritage of Willenhall

The plaques were cast from iron at Purbright Foundry at the Providence Works, Chapel Street, and designed by artists Julie Edwards and Ron Thompson from Planet Art. They worked with community groups and schools to develop plaques on the Willenhall Heritage Trail.

Keith Mason, owner of Willenhall Hardware and DIY, a member of the group, said: "It was a wonderful day apart from a bit of rain in the morning. It felt like it freshened up for the town."

## X Factor rocker Joe is a class act



Joe Whelan singing for pupils



Young entrepreneurs Ellie Reynolds, Megan Whitehouse, Meera Popat and Harriet Cowley meet X Factor contestant Joe Whelan during his Pool Hayes gig

FOUR students from Willenhall arranged a special guest appearance at their school by an X Factor star as part of their business challenge.

Wolverhampton rocker Joe Whelan wowed pupils at Pool Hayes Art and Community School in Castle Drive as he played an acoustic set including an exclusive airing for his new single, set to be released this month.

The four girls, Ellie Reynolds, Megan Whitehouse, Meera Popat and Harriet

Cowley, all aged 15, approached the singer via Twitter. They asked whether he would perform to help them raise money for Micro-Tyco, a charity raising money for start up businesses in the Third World.

Their fellow pupils paid £3 each to attend the special gig and Joe also led a guitar masterclass.

Ellie said: "It's nice to see everyone turn out to support us there has been a lot of hard work gone in to this."

### New radio station is launching for school

A WILLENHALL school will launch its own radio station early next year thanks to a £10,000 lottery grant.

Lodge Farm Junior Mixed and Infant School, on Furzebank Way, received the money through The Big Lottery Fund's Awards For All programme.

Headteacher Ashley Winter said he hoped the radio station would be up and running by February.

#### Booth

The perspex booth with sound desk will be located between the school's main hall and entrance.

Mr Winter said: "It's about improving technology in the school and also encouraging learners, particularly boys who perhaps don't engage that well with, say, written exercises. This will give them a different way of learning and a chance to do something they never normally would."

### Roaring 40s dance night

MEMORIES of the 1940s will be brought back to life at a dance revival at a Willenhall community centre.

Shepwell Green Social in Bilston Lane will play host to Strictly Jitterbugs Christmas dance featuring vintage singer Madeline Brown on December 18. Entrance is £8 and there will be dancing from 8 to 11.15pm.

### Help on jobs

JOBSEEKERS can get help and advice from Darlaston JET at Fibbersley Park Children's Centre in Willenhall town centre every Tuesday between 12pm and 2pm. Make an appointment on 0121 526 6238

### Pupils speak up in contest

PUPILS from four schools showcased their skills with the spoken word during a young speakers competition. Year 6 pupils battled it out in the third annual Willenhall Rotary Club competition. Topics including the joys of being a West Bromwich Albion fan, whether footballers are paid too much and favourite authors. Youngsters from Fibbersley Park, New Invention Junior, Woodlands Academy and Pool Hayes Junior took part with New Invention triumphant.

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## What's On! Walsall

## REVIEW

## Turning back the clock for Neds reunion

Ned's Atomic Dustbin, Wolverhampton Civic Hall "WOLVERHAMPTON Civic Hall, so much to answer for," quipped Ned's Atomic Dustbin singer Jonn Penney as his band turned back the clock 20 years on Saturday for their biggest reunion gig since their early 1990s heyday.

The Neds were back with their original line-up to recreate their breakthrough Nothing Is Cool video track by track, to mark its reissue on DVD, at the venue where it was filmed.

Downstairs at the Civic was packed with late 30somethings reliving their teens.

Ned fans had travelled from Japan, Australia and America, as well as from Stourbridge, and were nicely warmed up by 90s funk-rockers and former John Peel favourites Cud with their Purple Love Balloon.

From the moment Penney pogoed into action for Aim it was party time. The band's twin-bass and clattering slacker rhythm sounded as good now as it did back in the day.

Other highlights included Grey Cell Green and a rousing, rollicking Kill Your Television. As Jonn Penney said afterwards, the gig was "an absolute belter". **LB**

# Electronic rocker is ready to make his fans electric

**THE influential Gary Numan is in concert at Wolverhampton's Wulfrun Hall tonight (Thursday) on his Dead Moon Falling Tour.**



Gary Numan

Originally emerging from the 1970s London punk scene, Numan was part of the electronic movement that blossomed in the 1980s with The Human League and Soft Cell. Numan himself was inspired by David Bowie and German electronic pioneers Kraftwerk.

Numan's early hits included Cars and Are Friends Electric? But he is not an artist who is stuck in the past, he went through a reinvention almost as radical as fellow 80s electronic act Depeche Mode and became a major influence on the goth rock scene, inspiring artists as diverse as Marilyn Manson and Lady Gaga.

Tonight he will unveil songs from forthcoming album Splinter plus new versions of songs from 2011's Dead Moon Rising album.

## War of the Worlds returns

GARY Barlow's hit cover version of Forever Autumn from the 'New Generation' album of Jeff Wayne's Musical Version of The War Of The Worlds has put the spotlight back on the spectacular arena musical.

Wayne will be conducting his orchestra and avoiding being crushed by a giant alien killing machine when the show returns to Birmingham NIA tomorrow night (Friday). The cast includes Jason Donovan, Marti Pellow, Kerry Ellis and Ricky Wilson from the Kaiser Chiefs. Actor Liam Neeson will appear in 3D hologram form as The Journalist.

## A Grand night out for granny too



Feathers will fly – Sherrie Hewson meets Orville and Keith Harris as they prepare for Grand panto Jack and the Beanstalk

THE CHRONICLE has teamed up with Grannynet, the community website for grandmothers, and Wolverhampton Grand Theatre to offer one lucky reader five tickets so all the family can enjoy spectacular panto Jack and the Beanstalk, starring Sherrie Hewson, of Benidorm and Coronation Street.

At www.grannynet.co.uk, grannies are being asked to sit down with their grandchildren to discuss what the most important things about Christmas are, such as families getting together.

For your chance to win tickets to Jack and the Beanstalk at the Grand on Sunday, January 6, at 2pm, tell us which top TV soap Sherrie Hewson and her panto co-star Ken Morley used to feature in.

Send your answer on a postcard with your name, address and contact number to Panto Competition, Chronicle Series, Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES. The closing date is Friday, December 14. Usual rules apply and the editor's decision is final.

Jack And The Beanstalk, featuring Niki Evans as The Fairy and Nigel Ellacott as The Dame, is at the Lichfield Street theatre from Saturday (December 8) to January 20. To book tickets call the box office on 01902 429212 or visit www.grandtheatre.co.uk

**WOLVERHAMPTON GRAND THEATRE**

WOLVERHAMPTON GRAND THEATRE

## Eurovision victors have a Pelsall gig

THAT rarest of acts, British winners of the Eurovision song contest, will be performing alongside some of the region's best performing talent at a Christmas spectacular in Pelsall.

Brotherhood of Man, who won Eurovision in 1976 with Save Your Kisses, will be performing at Pelsall Community Centre in Station Road tomorrow night (Saturday).

Other artists taking part include Keir Edwards and Tom Edis, finalist of West Midlands Pop Stars. The evening starts at 7pm and tickets are available for £15 by calling 07793419657.

## Little Red Riding Hood panto plan

AN unconventional version of the story of Little Red Riding Hood is coming to Aldridge Youth Theatre for their Christmas pantomime.

In this version the wolf is back and luck is on his side as he seeks granny and the girl in red.

The family-friendly production has been written by Neville Ellis especially for the group. It will be staged at the theatre in Noddy Park Road, Aldridge, on January 11 and 12, then January 17 to 19, 24 to 26, including Saturday matinees.

Tickets cost £9 (£8 concessions) to book call (01922) 458615.

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# What's On!

## SATURDAY'S TV 8.12.12

Listings supplied by Press Association

### CHOICE



Dermot O'Leary

#### The X Factor

#### ITV1, 8pm

When Ella Henderson was voted off the show on November 18, millions of fans around the country gasped in disbelief. The shockwaves from her departure proved that nobody is safe in Simon Cowell's juggernaut of a talent search. Now the real questions are: how are the producers going to make a glorified sing-off drag on for so long? Can we get through the final without anyone using the sentence 'My act has been on a real journey'? And will Dermot O'Leary give us one final dance of the series before the set is packed up for another year?

### BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Baking Made Easy. (R) **12.00** BBC News. Regional News; Weather. **12.15** Football Focus. **1.00** Live Snooker: UK Championship. The opening session of the second semi-final. **4.30** Final Score. **5.10** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **5.30** A Question of Sport.

**6.00** **Pointless Celebrities.** Kerry Katona, Kim Woodburn, Edwina Currie, Diane Abbott, Dave Spikey, Jane McDonald, Lizo Mzimba and Ellie Crisell are the famous faces taking part in the general knowledge quiz.

**6.50** **Strictly Come Dancing.** Bruce Forsyth and Tess Daly present as the final six celebrities demonstrate their best moves in a bid to avoid the dreaded dance-off and make it through to next week's semi-final. The results are tomorrow at 7pm.

**7.55** **Merlin.** Morgana takes desperate measures to find Emrys.

**8.40** **The National Lottery Awards 2012.** Ceremony celebrating the work of 21 National Lottery-funded projects.

**9.20** **Casualty.** Tamzin's career is jeopardised when the ex-footballer whose neck she failed to immobilise sees the Ambulance Trust. Dominic and Tom come to blows over a patient's treatment.

**10.10** BBC News; Weather.

**10.30** **Match of the Day.** Including Sunderland v Chelsea; National Lottery Update.

**11.50** **The Football League Show.** Highlights of today's games in the Championship, League One and League Two.

**1.05** Weatherview. **1.10** BBC News.

### BBC2

**6.00** CBeebies. **12.00** The Sky at Night. (R) **12.20** Coast. (R) **12.40** Film: Carefree. (1938) Musical comedy, starring Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. **2.05** Film: Bicket. (1964) Historical drama, starring Richard Burton and Peter O'Toole. **4.30** Live Snooker: UK Championship. **5.30** Flog It! (R)

**6.30** **Dad's Army.** Mainwaring finds a German pilot trapped on top of the town clock by his parachute, so the platoon attempts a rescue mission. Classic comedy, starring Arthur Lowe. (R)

**7.00** **Live Snooker: UK Championship.** Coverage of the second and concluding session of the second semi-final at the Barbican Centre in York, where a maximum of nine frames are scheduled to take place. Subsequent programmes subject to change.

**10.00** **QI XL.** Stephen Fry hosts an extended version of the quiz, featuring Professor Brian Cox, Rhys Darby, Jason Manford and Alan Davies answering questions on the topic of justice.

**10.45** **Red Zepplin Live in London 2007: Celebration Day.** The band's one-off reunion performance at London's O2 as part of a benefit concert to commemorate the life of Atlantic Records co-founder Ahmet Ertegun.

**11.45** **Film: The Relic.** (1997) A biologist and a detective tangle with an ancient Amazonian beast stalking Chicago's Field Museum of Natural History. Horror, with Penelope Ann Miller, Tom Sizemore and Linda Hunt.

**1.30** **Film: Day of the Dead.** (1985) **3.05** Close.

### ITV1

**6.00** CITV: Babar and the Adventures of Badou. **6.10** Babar and the Adventures of Badou. (R) **6.25** The Hive. (R) **6.35** The Hive. (R) **6.45** The Hive. (R) **6.50** Animals. (R) **7.00** Animals. (R)

**7.05** The Avengers. **7.25** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.40** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.50** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.00** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.15** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.30** Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **11.20** Film: Columbo: Requiem for a Falling Star. (1973)

**12.50** ITV News; Weather. **1.05** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **1.50** Holiday Home Sweet Home. **2.50** Holiday Home Sweet Home. **3.55** Film: Back to the Future. (1985)

**6.00** Regional Programme; Weather.

**6.15** ITV News; Weather.

**6.30** **New You've Been Framed!** A fresh selection of comical clips.

**7.00** **The McFly Show.** The pop group perform some of their biggest hits, joined by celebrity guests including comedian Al Murray and Coronation Street star Michelle Keegan (Tina McIntyre).

**8.00** **The X Factor.** The three remaining acts battle it out in part one of the live final.

**10.00** **Film: The Invention of Lying.** (2009) Premiere. Comedy, starring Ricky Gervais.

**11.05** ITV News; Weather.

**11.20** **Film: The Invention of Lying.** (2009) Premiere. Concluded.

**12.05** The Store: ITV News Headlines. **2.10** In Plain Sight. (R) **2.55** ITV Nightscreen. **3.30** ITV Morning News.

### CHANNEL 4

**6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** Beach Volleyball. (R) **7.55** The Morning Line. **8.55** T4: According to Jim. (R) **9.25** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.15** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.45** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.20** T4: The Simpsons. (R) **1.50** Channel 4 Racing. **3.55** The Simpsons. (R)

**4.20** Come Dine with Me: Ireland. **4.55** Come Dine with Me: Ireland. **5.25** Come Dine with Me: Ireland. **5.55** Come Dine with Me: Ireland. **6.25** Come Dine with Me: Ireland. Collette McGahern hosts the final dinner party in Cavan and Monaghan.

**6.55** Channel 4 News.

**7.25** **4thought.tv.** A woman who was attacked for being Jewish.

**7.30** **Heston's Fantastical Food.** Heston Blumenthal aims to rekindle people's love of traditional pub food by building a giant pie and transforming it into a fully functioning public house in Wales. (R)

**8.30** **Stephen Fry: Gadget Man.** Technology to make work easier and more enjoyable. (R)

**9.00** **Film: Predators.** (2010) Premiere. Hardened fighters from across the globe are taken to an alien jungle planet to become prey in a big-game hunt. Sci-fi thriller sequel, with Adrien Brody.

**11.15** **Film: 30 Days of Night.** (2007) Horror, starring Josh Hartnett.

**1.20** **Film: The Girl Next Door.** (2004) **3.10** Hollyoaks. **5.15** Countdown. (R)

### CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake! **10.00** Power Rangers: Super Samurai. **10.35** ThunderCats. **11.10** The Gadgets Show. (R) **12.10** Chris Tarrant: Extreme Railways. (R) **1.10** Film: Superman II. (1980) Comic-strip adventure sequel, with Christopher Reeve. **3.40** Film: Annie Claus Is Coming to Town. (2011) Premiere. Christmas fantasy, starring Maria Thayer and Sam Page. **5.25** Film: Single Santa Seeks Mrs Claus. (2004) The son of Father Christmas is looking for a wife, just as the son of a single mother is writing to Santa to ask for a new dad. Comedy, with Crystal Bernard and Steve Gutterberg.

**7.10** **Film: A Grandpa for Christmas.** (2007) An elderly actor unexpectedly ends up caring for his grand-daughter over Christmas and helping her with a school pageant. Family comedy, with Ernest Borgnine and Juliette Goglia.

**8.50** 5 News Weekend.

**8.55** **Tommy Cooper's Christmas Special.** Festive edition of the comic magician's show from 1974, featuring music by Dana and Vic Damone and a guest appearance by French puppeteer Andre Tahon. (R)

**10.10** **Live International Boxing.** James DeGale v Fulgencio Zuniga. Mark Pougatch presents coverage of the bout for the WBC Silver Super Middleweight title, held at the Bonus Arena in Hull.

**12.00** SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **4.00** Michaela's Wild Challenge. Ellie Harrison tries to outpace a cartwheeling spider. (R)

**4.25** Great Artists. (R) **4.50** County Secrets. (R) **5.05** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.15** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.40** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

### DIGITAL

**BBC Three**  
**7.00** England's Worst Ever Football Team. **8.00** Top Gear Bolivia Special. **9.15** Russell Howard's Good News Extra. **10.00** Film: Die Hard with a Vengeance (1995) Action thriller sequel, with Bruce Willis, Samuel L. Jackson and Jeremy Irons.

**BBC Four**  
**7.00** Natural World: The Himalayas. **8.00** David Attenborough's First Life. **9.00** The Killing III. **11.00** More Old Jews Telling Jokes. **11.30** Voyager: To the Final Frontier.

**ITV2**  
**3.45** The Xtra Factor. **7.50** Film: Kindergarten Cop (1990). **10.00** The Xtra Factor. **11.20** Lemon La Vida Loca: Merry Keithmas! Part 1.

**ITV3**  
**5.55** A Touch of Frost. **5.55** Murder, She Wrote. **7.00** Rosemary & Thyme. **8.00** Foyle's War. **10.00** Bomb Girls. **11.00** A Touch of Frost.

**ITV4**  
**12.00** Live Tennis: The St. Pauli Masters. **5.00** Cheers. **5.30** Film: Bend of the River (1952). **7.25** The Sweeney. **8.30** Live Tennis: The St. Pauli Masters. **10.00** Film: The Black Windmill (1974). Spy thriller, starring Michael Caine, John Vernon, Janet Suzman, Donald Pleasence, Delphine Seyrig and Joss Ackland.

**E4**  
**5.35** How I Met Your Mother. **6.30** The Big Bang Theory. **8.00** Rules of Engagement. **9.00** Derren Brown: The Guilt Trip. **10.00** Film: Scary Movie 2 (2001). **11.40** The Big Bang Theory.

**Film4**  
**3.20** Carry On Doctor (1967). **5.15** The Nativity Story (2006). **7.10** Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer (2007). **9.00** The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (2008). Fantasy drama, starring Brad Pitt.

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## What's On!

## SUNDAY'S TV 9.12.12

Listings supplied by Press Association

## CHOICE



Dan Snow

Rome's Lost Empire  
BBC1, 8.40pm

You've got to hand it to archaeologists – they know how to get their hands dirty. Come rain or shine, they're happy to spend their days digging around in a muddy trench so that we can better understand the world in which our forebears lived. Sarah Parcak, though, is what's known as a 'space archaeologist', using the latest satellite technology to gain views of the landscape which would otherwise be impossible. In this documentary, Dan Snow joins the scientist on a mission to identify and track down lost cities, amphitheatres and forts.

## BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **7.40** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Fern Britton Meets Frank Bruno. **11.00** Sunday Politics: Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.20** Countryfile. (R) **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00** Helicopter Heroes. (R) **2.30** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.30** Call the Midwife. (R) **4.30** Songs of Praise. **5.05** Nigel Slater's Dish of the Day. (R) **5.35** BBC News: Regional News; Weather.

**6.00** Countryfile. Julia Bradbury visits the National Arboretum in Gloucestershire and John Craven is on the trail of English truffles. Plus, the increase in tree diseases crossing the Channel. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

**7.00** Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. Six become five and Michael Buble performs.

**7.40** Antiques Roadshow. The team travels to Wightwick Manor near Wolverhampton.

**8.40** Rome's Lost Empire. Dan Snow uses satellite technology to reveal the secrets of ancient Rome, tracking down lost cities, amphitheatres and forts with the help of archaeologist Sarah Parcak.

**10.00** BBC News: Regional News; Weather.

**10.25** Match of the Day 2. Including Manchester City v Manchester United.

**11.35** The Graham Norton Show. With Daniel Radcliffe, Jessica Ennis and Bruno Mars. (R)

**12.20** Film: Annapolis. (2006). **1.55** Weather. **2.00** Sign Zone: Film 2012. (R) **2.30** Holly City. (R) **3.30** Paul Martin's Handmade Revolution. (R) **4.15** BBC News.

## BBC2

**6.00** CBeebies. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** Nigella's Christmas Kitchen. (R) **12.00** Live Athletics. **1.45** Ray Reardon at 80. (R) **2.15** Live Snooker: UK Championship.

**6.00** Flog It! Experts Michael Baggot and Adam Partridge visit Blackburn in Lancashire, and Paul Martin discovers the story behind a group of local dialect poets. (R)

**6.20** Faulty Towers. A married couple, both doctors, check in and become intrigued by the behaviour of manic manager Basil, who feels sure a male guest has smuggled a girl into his room. (R)

**7.00** The Most Courageous Raid of WWII. Paddy Ashdown tells the story of the "Cockleshell Heroes", the Royal Marine commandos who in 1942 launched an attack on enemy shipping in Bordeaux harbour. (R)

**8.00** Live Snooker: UK Championship. Hazel Irvine introduces coverage of the second and concluding session of the final at the Barbican Centre in York, where a maximum of 11 frames are scheduled to take place.

**11.00** Never Mind the Buzzcocks. Ed Sheeran star Stephen Mangan takes over hosting duties on the quiz, with Kayvan Novak and Michelle Heaton among the guests, joining team captains Noel Fielding and Phill Jupitus. (R)

**11.30** Film: Keeping Up with the Steins. (2006) Comedy, with Daryl Sabara, Jami Gertz and Cheryl Hines.

**12.50** BBC News. **4.00** Close.

## ITV1

**6.00** CITV: Engie Benji. **6.10** Babar and the Adventures of Badou. (R) **6.25** Babar and the Adventures of Badou. (R) **6.35** Signed Stories. (R) **6.45** Canimals. (R) **6.55** Canimals. (R) **7.00** Fleabag Monkeyface. (R) **7.15** Fleabag Monkeyface. (R) **7.25** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.35** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.50** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **8.00** Big Time Rush. **8.30** Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **9.25** The No Taste Like Home. (R) **10.25** Dinner Date. (R) **11.25** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **12.30** Film: Carry On Up the Jungle. (1970) **2.15** The X Factor. (R) **4.15** Midsomer Murders. (R) **6.15** Regional Programme; Weather.

**6.25** ITV News; Weather. **6.45** Celebrity Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? Pantomime Special. With Denise Welch, David Hasselhoff, Cheryl Fergison, Tim Vine, John Partridge and Alison Hammond.

**7.40** The X Factor Results. With part one of the final behind them, this is the last chance for the two remaining acts to impress the public in the race to become this year's winner.

**9.40** Rod Stewart's Christmas. The rock star performs his favourite festive songs at Stirling Castle and collaborates with Michael Buble and Kylie Minogue.

**10.55** Film: Weather.

**11.15** Film: Nutsy Professor II: The Klumps. (2000) Comedy sequel, starring Eddie Murphy.

**1.05** The Store; ITV News Headlines. **2.55** Motorsport UK. **3.45** ITV Nightvision. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

## CHANNEL 4

**6.00** Sail Mail. (R) **6.05** The Treacle People. (R) **6.15** The Hoobs. (R) **6.45** The Hoobs. (R) **7.10** The Great Ethiopian Run. **8.05** Will & Grace. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.05** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.35** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.05** The Simpsons. (R) **1.40** Hugh's 3 Good Things. **2.10** Hugh's 3 Good Things. **2.45** Hugh's 3 Good Things. **3.20** Hugh's 3 Good Things. **3.55** Hugh's 3 Good Things. **4.25** Deal or No Deal. **5.20** Film: Elf. (2003)

**7.20** Channel 4 News. **7.50** 4thought.tv. A short film in which a member of the public reflects on whether Jews are still persecuted in Britain today.

**7.55** The Political Slot. **8.00** How the Bismarck Sank HMS Hood. David Mearns and Innes McCartney search the wreck of HMS Hood for clues as to why the battleship sank so quickly after being attacked by German battleship Bismarck in May 1941.

**9.00** Homeland. Saul catches up with an old friend and discovers evidence of covert activities by Estes, while Brody and Walden are at odds over the future of their political relationship.

**10.00** Peep Show. Mark thinks Simon is trying to get back together with Dobby.

**10.30** Film: G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra. (2009) Action adventure, starring Channing Tatum, Sienna Miller and Christopher Eccleston.

**12.45** American Football Live. **4.45** Grudge Match. (R) **4.55** Countdown. (R) **5.40** Make Do & Mend. (R)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowerbuds. (R) **6.25** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **6.30** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.45** Olive the Ostrich. **6.50** Abby's Flying Fairy School. (R) **7.00** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.20** Animal Antics. (R) **7.25** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.40** City of Friends. (R) **7.50** Castle Farm. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.10** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina. **8.40** Rupert Bear. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **9.30** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.45** Jelly Jamm. (R) **10.00** Power Rangers: Super Samurai. **10.35** ThunderCats. **11.10** Meals in Moments. (R) **11.20** Highland Emergency. (R) **11.50** Film: Jack Frost. (1998) **1.45** Film: Grounded. (2006) **3.30** Film: Superman III. (1983)

**6.05** 5 News Weekend. **6.10** Film: The Dirty Dozen. (1967) Twelve convicts are sent on a mission to destroy a French chateau being used as a German military base. Second World War action adventure, starring Lee Marvin and Telly Savalas.

**9.00** Film: The Expendables. (2010) Premiere. Action thriller, directed by and starring Sylvester Stallone. With Jason Statham.

**11.05** Film: Full Metal Jacket. (1987) Vietnam War drama, starring Matthew Modine. **1.25** SuperCasino. **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.50** Country Secrets. (R) **5.00** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

## DIGITAL

**BBC Three** **7.00** Top Gear **8.00** The Premier League's Most Amazing Moments **9.00** Sun, Sex and Suspicious Parents **10.00** Him & Her **10.30** American Dad! **11.15** Family Guy

**BBC Four** **7.00** Hiccate: A Garden for All Seasons **8.00** African Railway **9.00** The Trouble with Aid – The Debate **11.45** Hiccate: A Garden for All Seasons

**ITV2** **3.00** Film: The Little Vampire (2000) **4.55** Film: Uncle Buck (1989) **6.55** Film: Hulk (2003) Comic-strip adventure, starring Eric Bana. **9.40** The Xtra Factor **11.00** Film: Hot Fuzz (2007)

**ITV3** **2.50** Film: The Nun's Story (1959) **5.50** The Return of Sherlock Holmes **7.00** Lewis. A professor is killed on Halloween. Last in the series. **9.00** Midsomer Murders **11.00** Ghostboat

**ITV4** **4.30** Police, Camera, Action! **5.00** Live Tennis. The Stailo Masters.

**8.00** River Monsters **9.00** Film: The Quest (1996) Action adventure, starring Jean-Claude Van Damme. **11.00** Film: On Deadly Ground (1994)

**3.40** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** Film: The Day the Earth Stood Still (2008) **10.00** Misfits **11.00** The Inbetweeners

**4.45** The Family Stone (2005) **4.50** Local Hero (1983) **7.05** Failure to Launch (2006) Romantic comedy, with Sarah Jessica Parker and Matthew McConaughey. **9.00** Alien Resurrection (1997) Sci-fi thriller sequel, starring Sigourney Weaver. **11.10** Chain Reaction (1996)

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# What's On!

## Film Choices

### MONDAY

#### Mr & Mrs Smith, Channel 5, 9pm

An outwardly bored suburban couple, who lead double lives as professional assassins, are hired to kill one another – a situation that puts some much-needed excitement back into their stale relationship. Comedy adventure, starring Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie. (2005)

### Mercury Rising, ITV1, 10.35pm

A top-secret government agency has developed a seemingly unbreakable code – only for an autistic boy to crack it in an instant. Assassins succeed in gunning down his parents, but a maverick FBI agent investigating their deaths finds the child hiding in a closet, and resolves to shield him from the hitmen on his trail. Thriller, starring Bruce Willis. (1998)

### TUESDAY

#### A Simple Plan, BBC1, 11.50pm

Two brothers and a friend stumble on a fortune in unmarked small dollar bills in the wreckage of a plane and decide to squirrel it away for themselves. However, the strain of keeping the cache secret takes its toll as guilt, paranoia and greed change their relationship for ever. Sam Raimi's psychological thriller, starring Bill Paxton and Billy Bob Thornton. (1998)



The Expendables, Wednesday, Channel 5, 10pm

### WEDNESDAY

#### The Expendables, Channel 5, 10pm

A mercenary leads his elite team on a mission to assassinate a South American dictator, only to find their target is merely a pawn and the real power in the country is a rogue CIA agent. Feeling they have been double-crossed, they abandon the operation – but are compelled to return and save a captured rebel. Action thriller, directed by and starring Sylvester Stallone. (2010)

### THURSDAY

#### The Bounty Hunter, Channel 4, 1.05pm

A professional manhunter searches for three murderous train robbers who have taken cover in a backwoods town, but is unable to identify the killers among the community's residents. Meanwhile, the fugitives are aware of his arrival, and tensions begin to rise. Western, starring Randolph Scott and Ernest Borgnine. (1954)

### FRIDAY

#### Hard Target, ITV1, 11.10pm

A woman searching for her missing father hires an out-of-work merchant sailor to guide her through the streets of New Orleans, where his martial arts skills are greatly tested in a series of encounters with sadistic hunters of human prey. John Woo's action thriller, starring Jean-Claude Van Damme and Wilford Brimley. (1993)

## Pick of the Week

# Hopefuls aim to shine as a new star is born

On Saturday, August 18, 2012, a few million hearts sank. The X Factor was back, which meant summer was over, and by the time the series finished, Christmas would almost be on us.

Did we really need another three-and-a-half month talent search looking for the next One Direction or Leona Lewis? Did we have to put up with 18 weekends dominated by the show which dominated primetime Saturdays and Sundays on ITV?

Some people thought we didn't, because the show launched with the lowest ratings since 2006, and later started losing viewers to rival show Strictly Come Dancing. Yes, despite the millions of pounds Simon Cowell and ITV pumped into the show, a modest public-funded show featuring an 84-year-old host gave The X Factor a good run for its money.

To paraphrase Bruce Forsyth, didn't Strictly do well?

But if familiarity had bred contempt, there was no denying TXF's class of 2012 did a great job of making up for the ad breaks and Dermot O'Leary hurrying the judges for an answer on

Sunday nights (despite having padded out the results show for the past 55 minutes).

Thousands of wannabe stars entered the auditions stage between May 23 and June 25, but only 211 reached boot camp. The shortlist was eventually whittled down to 13 finalists. Carlyne Poole, Melanie Masson, MK1 and Jade Ellis were voted out in the first four weeks, while Lucy Spraggan dropped out in week five due to ill health.

That same week we also said goodbye to Kye Sones, who failed to win over the masses, and by week six, boy band District 3 were shown the door.

When Ella Henderson was voted off the show on November 18, millions of fans around the country gasped in disbelief.

The 16-year-old had belted out the performance of her life on the show a day earlier, and it looked like she was a dead cert to either win TXF, or at least make it through to this final. How wrong we all were.

The pride of Grimsby graciously admitted defeat, while Tulisa struggled

to come to terms with what had just happened.

That left Union J, Christopher Maloney, Jahmene Douglas, Rylan Clark (voted out on November 25) and James Arthur.

Now the real questions are: how are the producers going to make a glorified sing-off between three people last two hours?

Can we get through the Manchester-based finale without any judge using the phrase "My act has been on a real journey"?

And will Dermot give us one last dance of the series before the set is packed up for another year?

All shall be revealed as Tulisa, Gary Barlow, Louis Walsh and Nicole Scherzinger take to the stage, while I'm A Celebrity... bosses consider what trials they could put Rylan through next year if he decamps to the jungle.

Whatever happens, it should be 'Jahmazing' – as long as you pre-record the first hour, last-forward through the recaps, and then watch Sunday's results live.



The judges offer their opinion in The X Factor, Saturday, ITV1, 8pm

## Best of the Rest

### MONDAY

#### The All New Gadget Show

#### Channel 5, 8pm

Jason Bradbury and Pollyanna Woodward are in a rather unique Marseille hotel where every room is an individual bubble hidden in the woods. What better place to try out the latest mini-projectors? The duo are then Cannes-bound in a yellow Ferrari so they can test a range of high-end sat-navs. And if you are lucky enough to be driving one of the world's most sought after cars in one of the planet's most desirable locations, you may as well stop off in St Tropez to take a few snaps. Of course, these aren't any old photos. They are taken with digital single-lens reflex cameras. Nice work if you can get it.

### The Poison Tree

#### ITV1, 9pm

After appearing in White Heat earlier this year, MyAnna Buring takes the lead role in this new two-part thriller, which also takes place in two different time frames. In the present day, Karen Clarke (Buring) is waiting for her partner Rex (Matthew Goode) to be released from prison after serving a 12-year prison sentence so they and their 11-year-old daughter can finally become a family. We also flash back to the summer of 1999, when student Karen meets Rex and his glamorous sister Biba (Ophelia Lovibond) and finds herself caught up in their hedonistic party lifestyle. However, the relationships between the trio become increasingly intense and tangled, setting the scene for tragedy and murder.

### TUESDAY

#### Is Our Weather Getting Worse?

#### Channel 4, 8pm

It's an age-old joke that we Brits do nothing but gripe about the weather, but this year, we've certainly been given reason to complain. We were gripped by unrelenting drought at the beginning of the year, a time which saw hosepipe bans and our wildlife was almost on the verge of environmental disaster. But come April, violent storms brought about the wettest summer on record for 100 years, and the headlines and TV news bulletins were awash with the dramatic toll it had taken on our battered country. This programme explores the past 12 months of unpredictable weather through use of dramatic archive footage, expert interviews and cutting-edge graphics.

### WEDNESDAY

#### Chris Tarrant: Extreme Railways

#### Channel 5, 9pm

Chris Tarrant is exceptionally passionate about this week's episode when he discovers the wonders of Australia. "We went from Adelaide right down the bottom right the way up to Darwin, so literally we went right up the continent," he explains, still jet lagged. "We started off with a quite elegant new train, and then at one point we had to get on a steam train, which was quite fun, because I'm loading the furnace with coal. B\*\*\*\*y hard

work!" Tarrant and the small production crew then 'got a four-wheeled drive and took a 'bouncy light aircraft', then arrived at Alice Springs, where they were supposed to get a nice train to do the last bit. However, not everything went to plan.

### British Comedy Awards 2012

#### Channel 4, 9pm

This year, the nation has been more interested in feeling all patriotic than having a massive laugh, but that's not to say that we haven't enjoyed ourselves in between feeling all misty-eyed about our nation while celebrating the

Queen's diamond jubilee and supporting the UK's athletes as they went for gold at the Olympics. Perhaps to reflect the jingoistic nature of 2012, it would be fitting if BBC Four's sitcom Twenty Twelve retained the title of Best Sitcom it won last year. Other successful programmes and personalities in 2011 included Shooting Stars, Darren Boyd and Miranda Hart. But who will follow in their footsteps? Now, that would be telling...

### THURSDAY

#### Young Apprentice

#### BBC1, 8pm

What will the aspiring Young Apprentices ask



The Poison Tree, Monday, ITV1, 9pm

for this Christmas – computer games, a new power suit or the chance to move a step closer to their ultimate goal of world domination? If Santa can't help with the latter request, then maybe Alan Sugar can, as the teens battle it out for a place in the final. To get there, they are going to have to select products to sell at Womad, the world music festival which is attended by almost 40,000 fans. One team hope to clean up with a pedal-powered washing machine, while the others plump for a portable toilet. For the winners, there isn't just a random treat on offer, but a guaranteed place in the final.

### FRIDAY

#### A Night of Heroes – The Military Awards

#### ITV1, 9pm

London's Imperial War Museum hosts one of the most special awards nights on the calendar. Nicknamed the Millies, it recognises the excellence and sacrifices made by those serving in the British Armed Forces. Phillip Schofield and Amanda Holden host the ceremony, while celebrities such as Jeremy Clarkson, Mark Cavendish and Frank Lampard will be in attendance. The identities of this year's winners are being kept a secret for now, but you can bet there won't be a dry eye in the house when they're announced and those involved's amazing stories are told. It may be a cliché on the night, but even those who don't go home with a trophy are winners – there are certainly no losers here.

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Lot 33	49 The Uplands, Smethwick, West Midlands	Residential Vacant	Lot 78	Garages at Templemore Drive & Woodfort Road, Great Barr, Birmingham	Garages
Lot 34	Former Office at R/o Petersbourne Court, Petersfield Commercial Vacant/ Road Hall Green, Birmingham	Development	Lot 79	Garages at Eliot Way via Newport Road, Stafford	Garages
Lot 35	Land at Chetwynd Street, Smallthorne, Stoke-on-Trent	Land	Lot 80	Station Masters Cottage, 24 Station Road, Hednesford	Residential Investment
Lot 35a	Land at Frome Valley Haulage Depot, Bishops Cleeve, Worcester	NOT BEING OFFERED	Lot 81	31 Yoxley Avenue, Treherbert, Mid Glamorgan	Residential Investment
Lot 36	26 Tipton Road, Dudley	Residential Vacant	Lot 82	Strategic Land at Portway Hill, Tividale, Oldbury, West Midlands	Land
Lot 37	44 Vera Road, Yardley, Birmingham	NOT BEING OFFERED	Lot 83	Strategic Land at Kenford Road, Rowley Regis, Oldbury, West Midlands	Land
Lot 38	42 Station Road, Handsworth, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 84	212 Poplar Avenue, Edgbaston, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 39	140 Melton Road, Solihull, West Midlands	Residential Vacant	Lot 85	36 Maas Road, Northfield, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 40	Squires Scrayard, Common Road, Evesham, Worcestershire	Residential Vacant	Lot 86	141 May Lane, Kings Heath, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 40a	12 St Michael Street, Walsall	Residential Vacant	Lot 87	17 Bean Road, Dudley	Residential Vacant
Lot 41	40 Simcox Road, Wednesbury	Commercial Vacant	Lot 88	522 Coventry Road, Small Heath, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant
Lot 42	81-83 Stafford Street, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent	Commercial Vacant	Lot 89	46 Somerset Road, Erdington, Birmingham	Residential Investment
Lot 43	The Railway Inn, 96 Bromford Road, West Bromwich, West Midlands	Commercial Vacant	Lot 90	73 Preston Road, Yardley, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 44	The Vauxhall, Abbey Road, Evesham, Worcestershire	Commercial Vacant	Lot 91	53 Park Road, Woodsetton	Residential Vacant
Lot 44a	Beach Trade Centre, 130a Stony Lane, Sparkhill, Birmingham	Commercial Investment	Lot 92	31 Nelson Road, Dudley	Residential Vacant
Lot 45	28 Wychebold Crescent, Kitts Green, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 93	456 Harborne Park Road, Harborne, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 46	69 Round Street, Dudley	Residential Vacant	Lot 94	48 Church Road, Bradmore, Wolverhampton	Residential Investment
Lot 47	2 Glenholme Road, Erdington, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 95		
Lot 48	13 Birmingham New Road, Tipton	SOLD PRIOR			
Lot 49	Painters Cottage, 30 Avenue Road, Cosely	Residential Vacant			



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46 High Road, Lane Head, Willenhall, WV12 4JQ



**CANNOCK RD, NEW INVENTION**  
Extended Four Bed Detached Property Set On A Large Plot, Comprising Of Lounge, Dining Room, Sitting Room, Extended Fitted Kitchen, Groundfloor WC, Four Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Double Garage, Majority D/Glazing, C/Heating, Vehicle Access To Rear.

£239,995



**CEDAR PARK RD, NEW INVENTION**  
Immaculately Presented Three Bed Semi, Spacious Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Conservatory, Three Good Sized Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Double Glazing, Central Heating Garage/Workshop, Sought After Location Must Be Viewed!

£149,995



**BENTLEY MILL LANE, BENTLEY**  
Extended Three Bed Semi Comprising Of Lounge, Extended Breakfast Kitchen, Groundfloor W.C., Three Bedrooms, Shower Room, C/Heating & D/Glazing, Garage, Workshop, VIEWING ESSENTIAL.

£134,995



**BALMORAL DR, NEW INVENTION**  
Spacious Semi Having Entrance Porch, Entrance Hall, Through Lounge/Diner With Patio Doors Into Conservatory, Fitted Kitchen, Three Generous Bedrooms, Additional Loft Room, Family Bathroom, C/Heating, D/Glazing And A C/Heating Driveway, Popular Location.

£129,995



**ST CHADS ROAD, BILSTON**  
Extended Two Bed Detached Bungalow, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Dining/Utility Area, Wet Room, C/Heating, Majority D/Glazing, Off Road Parking, Front And Rear Gardens, Ideal Investment Or First Time Buy!

£112,500



**HARPER STREET, WILLENHALL**  
Two Bed Town House Comprising Of Entrance Hall, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor W/C, Lounge, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Allocated Parking And Enclosed Rear Garden.

£109,995



**SHANE ROAD, ASHMORE PARK**  
NO CHAIN Fully Refurbished Two Bed Semi With Great Potential To Extend, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, C/Heating, D/Glazing Front And Rear Gardens, Ideal First Time Buy!

£107,500



**BAYNTON ROAD, NEW INVENTION**  
Three Bed Semi Comprising Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Bathroom, Part D/Glazing, Part C/Heating, Rear Garden, Integral Garage And Off Road Parking, Requires Improvements, Great First Time Buy Or Investment! No Chain!

£105,000



**CIRCUIT CLOSE, WILLENHALL**  
Well Presented End Town House, Comprising Of Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Spacious Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating And Off Road Parking, Cul-De-Sac Location, Ideal First Time Buy!

£102,000



**ROCHESTER CROFT, REEDSWOOD**  
Well Presented Modern Two Bed Mid Town House, Comprising Of Lounge, Kitchen Diner, Conservatory, Shower Room, Also Benefitting From D/Glazing And C/Heating, Rear Garden, Ideal First Time Buy!

£99,995



**WOOD STREET, WEDNESBURY**  
Well Presented Two Bed End Town House, Lounge, Spacious Kitchen Diner, Two Good Sized Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing And C/Heating, Fantastic Buy To Let Or First Time Buy!

£89,995



**BROADWATERS RD, DARLASTON**  
Three Bed End Town House Having Entrance Hall, Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor Bathroom With W.C., Three Bedrooms, UPVC D/Glazing Throughout, Off Road Parking For Two Vehicles, Large Rear Garden With Workshop, Ideal Investment Or FTB.

£87,995



**RYDAL CLOSE, WEDNESFIELD**  
Well Presented One Bedroom First Floor Maisonette Comprising Of Entrance Hallway/Utility, Dining Area/Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom And Modern Fitted Bathroom, UPVC D/Glazing, C/Heating, Rear Garden.

£69,995



**REGENT ST, WILLENHALL**  
Spacious Three Bed Semi Which Is In Need Of Modernisation, Having Two Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Groundfloor Bathroom And Three Double Bedrooms, To The Outside Is An Enclosed Rear Garden, Ideal Investment Or FTB.

£69,995



**CASTLE DRIVE, SUMMER HAYES**  
Two Bed Bungalow Comprising Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, Conservatory, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Off Road Parking, Rear Garden And Detached Garage, Over 25's Only.

£535 PCM



**DORCHESTER RD, NEW INVENTION**  
Three Bed Semi Located In Popular Location, Comprising Of Entrance Porch, Lounge, Modern Kitchen Diner, Three Good Sized Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Off Road Parking And Enclosed Rear Garden.

£525 PCM



**HARPER ST, WILLENHALL**  
Modern Four Bed Three Storey Mid Town House Having Entrance Hallway, Fitted Kitchen, Lounge, Ground Floor W.C., Four Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, UPVC D/Glazing, C/Heating, Allocated Parking And Enclosed Rear Garden.

£575 PCM



**STUBBINGTON CLOSE, PORTOBELLO**  
Two Bedroom Detached Bungalow Comprising Of Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Sunroom, Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, UPVC Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Detached Garage And Driveway.

£520 PCM



**JENNER ROAD, BEECHDALE**  
Three Bed End Town House Comprising Of Entrance Hall, Spacious Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, C/Heating & D/Glazing And Enclosed Rear Garden.

£500 PCM



**CEDAR ROAD, WILLENHALL**  
Two Bedroom Semi Detached Bungalow Comprising Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Rear Garden And Off Road Parking.

£500 PCM



**HIGH ROAD, WILLENHALL**  
Spacious Mid Terrace Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Shower Room, Three Double Bedrooms, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Large Rear Garden, Must View!

£500 PCM



**HUNTINGTON RD, NEW INVENTION**  
Two Bed Mid Terrace House Having Spacious Lounge, Kitchen, Side Entry, Two Double Bedrooms, Fitted Bathroom With Electric Shower, Double Glazing, Brick Outbuilding, Front And Rear Gardens, Great Location.

£450 PCM



**WOLVERHAMPTON ST, WHALL**  
Three Bed First Floor Flat In Willenhall Town Centre Comprising Of Lounge, Kitchen, Bathroom, Double Bedroom, Good Sized Rear Bedroom, Atic Conversion Third Bedroom, C/Heating, D/Glazing And Off Road Parking To The Rear.

£425 PCM



**WOLVERHAMPTON ST, WILLENHALL**  
One Bedroom Ground Floor Flat Comprising Of Lounge Diner, Double Bedroom, Study/Store Room, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/Heating And Off Road Parking To The Rear.

£350 PCM

Willenhall 01902 606595



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## K. Stuart Swash

### PROPERTY AUCTION



**9 KENT STREET, WALSALL**

Well located Terraced House  
Two Reception,  
large Kitchen, Bathroom,  
Three Bedrooms

Guide: \$55,000/\$60,000

VIEWING  
THURSDAY & FRIDAY,  
6th & 7th DECEMBER  
@ 11.30 a.m.

**AUCTION**  
11th  
December



**157 STUBBY LANE, WEDNESFIELD**

Spacious and large Detached House with  
Gas C.H., Double Entrance Drive,  
enclosed Porch, Hall, Store off, Lounge,  
Dining Room, big Kitchen, Pantry and  
Store, Rear Lobby with w.c. off wide  
Landing, Four Double Bedrooms,  
Bathroom with white fittings, Separate  
w.c., Side access to Hall, large  
Store/Office, Kitchen, Cloakroom with  
wc and handbasin, Garage, Gardens

Guide: \$115,000/\$125,000

VIEWING  
(Torch needed, bring your own)  
FRIDAY & SATURDAY,  
7th & 8th DECEMBER  
@ 9.00 a.m.



**67 UPPER ETTINGSALL ROAD, COSELEY**

POTENTIAL BUILDING PLOT  
Planning Permission granted - but now expired - for  
erection of Detached House to offer Three Bedrooms  
(one en suite), Reception, Kitchen, Car Port

Guide: \$28,000/\$33,000



**33 MILTON ROAD, COSELEY**

Generously proportioned  
Three Bed Semi.,  
With Lounge, spacious Dining  
Kitchen, Cloakroom with w.c.,  
Upstairs Bathroom, Gas C.H.,  
Outside Store, Front and  
Rear Gardens

Guide: \$73,000/\$78,000

VIEWING  
THURSDAY & FRIDAY,  
6th & 7th DECEMBER  
@ 10.45 a.m. & SATURDAY,  
8th DECEMBER @ 12.00 noon



**4 NEW BUILDINGS, STAFFORD ROAD, COVEN HEATH**  
With open outlooks to front and  
rear - a large Mid Terraced with  
Gas C.H.

Enclosed Porch, Two Reception,  
long Kitchen, Utility area, Two  
Double Bedrooms, white  
Bathroom, Outside Store, long Rear  
Garden abutting fields

Guide: \$73,000/\$78,000

VIEWING  
FRIDAY & SATURDAY,  
7th & 8th DECEMBER  
@ 11.00 a.m.



**47 THE LINDENS, NEWBRIDGE, WOLVERHAMPTON**

Ground Floor Flat with access to Gardens to rear, Private  
Hall, Lounge with garden door, Kitchen, Two Double  
Bedrooms, Bathroom, Garage

Guide: \$52,000/\$55,000

VIEWING  
FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 7th & 8th DECEMBER  
@ 10.00 a.m.

### FOR SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION

(subject to conditions and prior sale)

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VIEWING OF ALL LOTS AT OWN RISK

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### WILLENHALL MILFORD AVENUE

- Much improved semi detached property
- Popular location
- Three bedrooms
- Lounge
- Refitted dining kitchen
- Refitted bathroom
- Gas central heating, double glazing
- Driveway, front and rear gardens

**£137,000**



### DARLASTON PINFOLD STREET

- Lovely new bedroom ground floor flat in convenient location
- Pleasantly appointed accommodation throughout
- Lounge with feature fireplace
- Refitted kitchen
- Fitted shower room with walk-in-bath
- Communal gardens and elevated parking throughout
- Gas central heating system
- UPVC double glazed windows

**£59,995 OFFERS, NO CHAIN**



### WILLENHALL HAWKSWELL DRIVE

- Well maintained extended semi detached property
- Three bedrooms
- Double glazing and central heating
- Two reception rooms
- Conservatory
- Fitted kitchen with selected appliances
- Utility room
- Pleasant enclosed rear garden

**£127,500 VIEWING RECOMMENDED**



### WILLENHALL PRINCETHORPE ROAD

- Modern End Town House
- Two bedrooms
- Lounge
- Dining Kitchen
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Good size rear garden
- Driveway to the fore

**£125,000**



### ESSINGTON SNEYD LANE

- Traditional style extended detached bungalow
- Much requested location
- Potential to extend/subject to planning permission
- Two bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- UPVC double glazing, gas central heating
- Two garages, ample gated off road parking

**NOW £245,000, NO CHAIN**



### WILLENHALL YALE ROAD

- Modern style mid town house
- Two bedrooms
- Lounge/dining room
- Fitted kitchen
- Bathroom
- Double glazing
- Gas central heating
- Driveway, garden to the rear

**£119,950**



### DARLASTON MEMORY LANE

- Wall presented modern style semi detached property
- Lounge
- Dining kitchen
- Refitted bathroom
- Two bedrooms
- Storage heating
- Double glazing
- 23ft garage, garden to the rear

**£99,950**



### COPPICE FARM KINGFISHER GROVE

- Pleasantly appointed modern style detached
- Four bedrooms, all with wardrobes
- Master bedroom with en-suite shower room
- Two reception rooms
- Refitted kitchen
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Established rear garden

**NOW £207,000**



### WILLENHALL BILSTON LANE

- Spacious and terraced property
- Two bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- Part UPVC double glazed windows
- Two reception rooms
- Upstairs bathroom with shower
- Fitted kitchen and downstairs wc
- Rear parking and garden

**OFFERS OVER £80,000 IDEAL FIRST TIME PURCHASE**



### COPPICE FARM LOCHALSH GROVE

- Modern style detached family residence
- Four bedrooms
- En-suite shower room
- Lounge and dining rooms
- Excellent kitchen and downstairs wc
- Garage and off road parking
- Generous rear garden
- Gas central heating

**NOW £193,500**



### WILLENHALL GIPSY LANE

- Spacious traditional detached property
- Two reception rooms
- Large rear garden with workshop/gym
- No upward chain
- Off road parking
- Luxury bathroom
- Superb breakfast kitchen/conservatory
- Three bedrooms

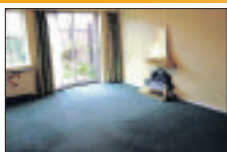
**£190,000**



### COPPICE FARM KINGFISHER GROVE

- Pleasantly appointed modern style detached property
- Three bedrooms, en-suite shower room
- Lounge and dining room
- Superb UPVC double glazed conservatory
- Fitted kitchen and ally rooms
- Excellent refitted bathroom with shower
- Enclosed rear garden
- Gas central heating

**£184,500 OFFERS FOR QUICK SALE**



### COPPICE FARM COTSWOLD GROVE

- Spacious ground floor flat
- Two double bedrooms
- Large lounge
- Kitchen
- Parking to the fore
- Storage heating
- DEVELOPMENT FOR THE OVER 55's
- Communal gardens

**£75,000 FOR 70% SHARED OWNERSHIP, NO CHAIN**



### SHORT HEATH HUNTS LANE

- Superbly presented detached property
- Three good size bedrooms
- Spacious lounge
- Well appointed dining kitchen
- Luxury bathroom
- Superb en-suite shower room
- Double glazing
- Gas central heating
- Driveway, rear garden

**£169,950 MUST BE VIEWED**



### SUMMER HAYES FENN RISE

- Spacious link detached bungalow
- Extended to the side elevation
- Three bedrooms & dressing room
- Majority triple glazing, gas central heating
- 32ft double length garage, rear garden

**£164,950**



### NEW INVENTION GLAMIS ROAD

- Pleasantly appointed link detached property
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Two reception rooms
- Fitted kitchen
- Fitted bathroom with shower
- 28ft side garage, established rear garden

**NOW £162,500**



### WILLENHALL MILL LANE

- Traditional style extended double fronted detached bungalow
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating, UPVC double glazed windows
- 27ft extended lounge/dining room
- Fitted kitchen inc oven & hob
- Utility room
- Bathroom with separate shower cubicle

**£150,000 NO CHAIN**



### WILLENHALL PRINCETHORPE ROAD

- Superbly appointed spacious modern detached property
- Gas central heating, UPVC double glazing
- Three bedrooms and bathroom
- Double glazed windows
- Lounge/occasional bedroom four and town house
- UPVC double glazed conservatory
- Living room, dining kitchen with Juliet balcony
- Three/ten bedrooms, two with en-suites
- Pleasant rear garden

**£154,995 OFFERS, VIEWING RECOMMENDED**



### SUMMER HAYES CASTLE DRIVE

- Four bedroom detached property
- 3 first floor bedrooms, downstairs bedroom 4
- Breakfast kitchen & utility room/ice
- Refitted Jack & Jill bathroom with shower
- 22ft tandem length garage
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows

**OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £150,000, NO CHAIN**



### WILLENHALL LAKESIDE CLOSE

- Pleasantly appointed modern style detached property
- Three bedrooms
- En-suite shower room
- 18ft front lounge
- 18ft fitted dining kitchen
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Enclosed rear garden
- Internal viewing recommended

**£149,950 OFFERS**



### COPPICE FARM MILES MEADOW CLOSE

- Pleasantly appointed modern style link detached
- Three bedrooms, master with fitted wardrobes
- UPVC double glazing, gas central heating
- Fitted central heating
- Lounge and dining room
- Fitted kitchen
- Refitted first floor bathroom
- Enclosed rear garden

**NOW OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £140,000**



### SNEYD PARK CEDAR PARK ROAD

- Pleasantly appointed semi detached property
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating, UPVC double glazed windows
- Lounge and dining rooms
- Fitted kitchen
- Refitted bathroom with white suite
- Garage/carport
- Attractive enclosed rear garden

**£139,950**



### BENTLEY WREXHAM AVENUE

- Extended traditional style semi detached property
- Three bedrooms and bathroom
- Double glazed windows
- Gas central heating
- Garden to the rear
- Garage and driveway
- Views over Bentley Leisure Pavilion

**£109,950 NO CHAIN**



### HADLEY HEATH, WILLENHALL FAWLEY CLOSE

- Pleasant improved modern style semi detached property
- Two bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Lounge with feature fireplace
- Fitted bathroom with shower
- Carpet with double doors to the front
- Attractive enclosed rear garden

**£104,995**



### WILLENHALL ALAMEIN ROAD

- Traditional style town house
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- 19ft fitted dining kitchen
- 14ft through lounge
- Upstairs bathroom
- Generous lawned rear garden

**NOW £95,000 OFFERS, NO CHAIN**



### WILLENHALL HOLMAN CLOSE

- Wall presented mid town house
- Three bedrooms
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Gas central heating
- Two reception rooms
- Kitchen
- Upstairs bathroom, downstairs wc
- Low maintenance front and rear gardens
- Garage to the rear

**£87,500**

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**Bloxwich  
Enderley Drive**  
● Three bedroom detached bungalow  
● Lounge / Diner ● Re-Fitted Kitchen  
● Re-Fitted Shower Room ● Separate W.C.  
● Double Glazed Central Heating  
● Garage ● Gardens ● Driveway

In the Region of £289,950



**Bloxwich  
Lichfield Road**  
● Extended Four/Five Bed Semi-Detached  
● Three Reception Rooms  
● Kitchen  
● Family Bathroom  
● Attic Bedroom  
● Integral Garage  
● Off Road Parking

£240,000



**Bloxwich  
Field Road**  
● Four Bedroom Semi-Detached  
● Fully Re-Furbished ● Two Reception Rooms  
● Re-Fitted Kitchen ● Conservatory  
● Utility Room ● W.C. ● Family Bathroom  
● Rear Garden ● Garages ● Workshop

In the Region of £199,000



**Bloxwich  
Lytham Grove**  
● Three Bedroom Detached  
● Two Reception Rooms ● Fitted Kitchen  
● Cloakroom W.C. ● En-Suite  
● Solid Timber Flooring ● Family Bathroom  
● Conservatory ● Integral Garage

£188,000



**Essington  
Albany Grove**  
● Four Bedroom Detached  
● Two Reception Rooms  
● Extended Kitchen ● Conservatory  
● Family Bathroom ● Front & Rear Gardens  
● Carport ● Garage ● Driveway

In the Region of £180,000



**Bloxwich  
Selsdon Road**  
● Three Bedroom Detached  
● Two Reception Rooms  
● Kitchen ● Cloakroom W.C.  
● Family Bathroom ● Front & Rear Gardens  
● Garage ● Off Road Parking

In the Region of £175,950



**Willenhall  
Crab Lane**  
● Four Bedroom Link-Detached  
● Through Lounge/Diner ● Kitchen  
● Ground Floor Shower Room  
● First Floor Shower Room ● Utility Room  
● Garage ● Off Road Parking ● Gardens

Offers in excess of £175,000



**Willenhall  
Dursley Close**  
● Three Bedroom Detached  
● Through Lounge/Dining Room  
● Sitting Room ● Fitted Kitchen  
● Utility Room ● Bathroom ● Rear Garden  
● Integral Garage ● Block Paved Driveway

Offers in excess of £149,950



**Walsall  
Leamore Lane**  
● Three Bedroom Town House  
● Kitchen/Diner ● Study ● Cloakroom W.C.  
● First Floor Lounge ● Family Bathroom  
● En-Suite Shower Room ● Gardens  
● Detached Garage

In the Region of 145,000



**Bloxwich  
Harrison Street**  
● Victorian Three Bedroom End-Terrace  
● Two Reception Rooms ● Fitted Kitchen  
● Utility ● Re-Fitted Family Bathroom  
● Self W.C. ● Front & Rear Gardens  
● Cellar ● Double Glazing & Gas Central

In the Region of £139,950



**Bloxwich  
Well Lane**  
● Three Bedroom Detached  
● Lounge/Diner  
● Family Bathroom with separate W.C.  
● Integral Garage ● Front & Rear Gardens  
● Large Driveway

Offers in excess of £130,000



**Bloxwich  
Newhome Way**  
● Three Storey Four Bedroom Semi  
● Central Heating & D. Glazing  
● Conservatory ● Downstairs W.C.  
● Fitted Kitchen ● En-Suite ● Driveway  
● Garage ● Front & Rear Gardens

Offers in excess of £130,000



**Walsall  
Little Island Drive**  
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached  
● Lounge ● Kitchen/Diner ● Driveway  
● Master Bedroom with En-Suite  
● Family Bathroom ● Integral Garage  
● Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing

Offers Over £130,000



**Walsall  
Smiths Flour Mill**  
● Two Bedroom Penthouse Apartment  
● Lounge ● Integrated Kitchen  
● Electric Heating & Double Glazing  
● Allocated Parking ● Family Bathroom  
● Many Upgrades (Please ask for Details)

Offers in excess of £125,000



**Bloxwich  
Grantown Grove**  
● Two Bedroom Mid-Terrace  
● Kitchen ● Lounge ● Fitted Bathroom  
● Rear Enclosed Garden  
● Two Allocated Parking Spaces  
● Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating

In the Region of £116,950



**Bloxwich  
Raymond Close**  
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached  
● Lounge/Diner ● Kitchen  
● Shower Room ● Separate W.C.  
● Integral Garage ● Front & Rear Gardens  
● Off Road Parking

Offers in excess of £115,000



**Bloxwich  
Henley Close**  
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached  
● Lounge ● Extended Kitchen  
● Dining Room ● Family Bathroom  
● Gardens ● Garage ● Driveway  
● Part Gas Central & Double Glazing

In the Region of £110,000



**Bloxwich  
Beatrice Street**  
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached  
● Front Lounge ● Rear Sitting Room  
● Breakfast Room/Study ● Fitted Kitchen  
● Bathroom ● D. Glazed Central Heating  
● Gardens with Off Road Parking

In the Region of £110,000



**Willenhall  
Gurnard Close**  
● Two Bedroom End-Terrace  
● Lounge  
● Kitchen/Diner  
● Two Bedrooms  
● Family Bathroom  
● Large Rear Garden  
● Off Road Parking to Front  
● Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating  
● Viewing Essential

£110,000



**Bloxwich  
Beeches Road**  
● Two Bedroom Semi Detached  
● Lounge ● Kitchen/Diner  
● Utility ● Family Bathroom  
● Large Rear Garden ● Off Road Parking  
● Corner Plot with room to extend

Offers in excess of £105,000



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In the Region of £87,500



**Bloxwich  
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● Two Bedroom Mid-Terrace  
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● Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating

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● Gas Central Heating ● Gardens

£84,500



**Bloxwich  
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In the Region of £65,000



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Kia's new concept for the pro\_ceed GT has a distinctly predatory appearance

## Exaggerated outline shows the way designers think

**KIA has released a concept drawing of its forthcoming pro\_ceed GT.**

The GT will be the first performance-biased Kia ever to leave the factory, and it is hoped that the model will make inroads into what is still a lucrative corner of the European car market. Confirmed details are few. The pro\_ceed GT will have a turbocharged

1.6-litre GDI petrol engine; power output is expected to be around 180bhp.

### Turbo

The Hyundai Veloster Turbo already uses the same engine at that power output and it's unlikely that Kia's parent company will allow the new hatch to outshine the range-topping Veloster.

The concept wears familiar Kia styling, and while the overlarge wheels and squashed roof line are exaggerations of the designers' eventual intent, there is little doubt that the GT will be a great-looking car.

It will be launched in the second half of 2013, with first drives likely to come in August, before an official launch for the traditional new registration in September.

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Advertisement Feature

## Local Vauxhall Dealer Celebrates Sales Success

Dudley Motor Company are celebrating their latest unprecedented sales success at their recent Vauxhall VIP BIG Event, when during the weekend of 16th to 19th November, the company sold 60 vehicles of which a staggering 48 were NEW CARS!

These figures ensured that Dudley Motor Company were one of THE Top Selling Vauxhall Dealerships in the country for this nationwide event. This is backed up by their consistent record of achievement, in 2011 this company were winners of the Vauxhall Chairman's Award for Excellence whilst they have a string of Regional Excellence awards lining their walls that stretches back every year to 2006.

General Manager Rob Gilbert commented that success is a testament to the high standards of customer care that are required by Vauxhall of their dealerships, which consistently result



in the company achieving high scores on customer surveys. This family run business of nearly 60 years is justifiably proud of these excellent standards in customer satisfaction, where personal service counts.

Rob Gilbert himself has worked for Vauxhall in Dudley for over 29 years whilst amongst this family run firms other loyal staff, Motability specialist, Tony Lister has over 50 years Vauxhall experience and Trevor Hollies in sales has over 34 years Vauxhall experience!

Dudley Motor Company now have over 50 part exchanges arriving within the next few weeks and we will be offering many of our cars at around cost price or below, so we can reduce our stocks down to a more manageable level.

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Representations can be made online, email: planning@walsall.gov.uk or  
in writing to Head of Planning and Building Control, Civic Centre, Darwall Street,  
Walsall, WS1 1DG.  
Representations should be made within 21 days of the date of this notice.  
Please note: Your letter and personal details will form part of the planning file which  
is a public document and will be available for inspection at the Council Offices. The  
information may be released as part of a request under the Freedom of Information Act.  
Town and Country Planning Act 1990.  
Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995  
Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990. (Section 73).  
Applications Affecting a Conservation Area  
Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990. (Section 73).  
Applications Affecting the setting of a Listed Building  
12/1553/FL  
Norton & Profit Developments Ltd  
FOR: Proposed retail building with provision for upper floor space together with  
associated secure rear servicing, access and relocated substation. Enabling works  
include the demolition of the existing retail parade along Digbeth and Lower Hall  
Lane, the decked car park accessed from Lower Hall Lane and ancillary workshop  
building from the former Shannons Mill site.  
AT: 41-43 HIGH STREET, 10-30 (EVEN) DIGBETH & CAR PARK AND 1-10 LOWER  
HALL LANE, WALSHALL  
12/1555/FLC  
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FOR: Conservation Area Consent: To demolish existing buildings fronting High  
Street, Digbeth and Lower Hall Lane and Former Multi-Storey Car Park to allow for  
redevelopment for retail development.  
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Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995  
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H W Campton Ltd  
FOR: Variation of condition 2 of appeal decision APP/V430/A01/1079352 to extend  
the opening hours to 0900 to 2300 Monday to Saturday and 1530 to 2330 on Sundays.  
AT: UNIT 1, THE WOODLANDS CENTRE, WOOD LANE, WILLENHALL, WV12 5ND  
12/1555/FL  
H W Campton Ltd  
FOR: Variation of Condition 2 of appeal decision APP/V430/A04/1157133 to extend  
the opening hours to 0900 to 2330 Monday to Saturday and 1530 to 2330 on Sundays.  
AT: UNIT 3, WOODLANDS CENTRE, WOOD LANE, WILLENHALL, WV12 5ND  
12/1572/FL  
Mr Aamer Waheed  
FOR: Change of use of land to form cemetery with associated parking, paths, access  
roads, landscaping, nature conservation area and reception building following  
demolition of existing buildings.  
AT: LAND AT CALDERFIELDS FARM, ALDRIDGE ROAD (TO REAR OF  
LONGWOOD COTTAGES), WALSHALL

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## Vase tilt ended as late effort squashed

**Harborne 19 Aldridge 5**  
ALDRIDGE'S rugby union North Midlands Junior Vase tilt ended at Harborne, who play in the league above.

The start wasn't great as Harborne ran the ball straight back with full-back Emir Hiri ghosting through to touch down.

Centre Craig Heney converted and the outlook looked bleak but after that they buckled down.

Both sets of forwards slugged it out throughout as the backs probed to find a breakthrough, but defences were largely in the ascendency.

Some lengthy line kicking from veteran Aldridge fly-half Kenny Carter gave his side territorial advantage, but neither side could pressure the try line consistently.

A penalty from Heney increased the margin for the home side to 10-0 at the break.

The Aldridge pack began to gain some ascendancy in the second half while determined midfield defence kept the lid on Harborne's speedy backs. But two more Heney penalties increased the Harborne cushion.

It was late on when Aldridge finally got within sniffing distance of the hosts' line. A penalty 10 metres out was taken quickly and transferred to skipper Eddie O'Neill who was festooned with defenders as he crossed the line.

Harborne rallied and landed a last penalty almost on the final whistle.

## Athletics for youngsters

WALSALL Junior Athletics Club have a new session to give young children a chance to get into the sport.

An Athletics FUNDamentals session for children aged four to seven now takes place every Saturday from 9am at Walsall Campus Sports Centre.

The club, run by Walsall Council's sport and leisure services, has now been established for six years and also provides weekly coaching to eight to 11-year-olds and 12-16-year-olds at 10am and 11am respectively every Saturday.

For further details, call 01922 658080, visit [www.walsall.gov.uk/athletics](http://www.walsall.gov.uk/athletics) or just turn up



Christopher Keane celebrates his victory



Keane, right, on the attack against Moses Matovu



Jason Welborn, left, hooks to the body of Jan Balog

# Title challenger Jason Czechs out southpaw

**JASON WELBORN** warmed up for his British welterweight title shot against Frankie Gavin with a points win at Wolverhampton Civic Hall – and some southpaw training.

Midlands champion Welborn will get his chance against Gavin at Walsall Town Hall on Friday, January 18 with the bout screened live on BoxNation.

With that in mind, Czech southpaw Jan Balog was shipped in to face Welborn at Wolverhampton – and the 30-year-old showed the Rowley Regis man what to expect.

A disoriented 10-rounder followed in which Welborn got rounds under his belt against a southpaw and decked him twice, only for the visitor to rise each time and take him to the distance.

Balog slumped to the canvas from a right to the body and then, in the final session, a right to the temple saw him take a knee again.

Welborn won by 100-89 points but was got a clearer idea of what is ahead.

### Chance

On the undercard, Walsall's Martin Gethin will finally get a chance at the now-vacant British and Commonwealth lightweight belts against Ben Murphy.

There will be a third title contest as Walsall's Christopher Keane faces ex-British champion Shane McPhilbin for the title he holds – Midlands cruiserweight.

Keane was also in action at Wolverhampton, taking on Ugandan-born Northern Ireland resident Moses Matovu in a six-rounder.

The 26-year-old former ABA super-heavyweight national amateur champion

by Craig Birch

blew off more of the ring rust built up since he started his professional journey.

Despite leaving the amateurs more than three years ago, Keane has just eight fights under his belt and has barely got out of first gear in remaining undefeated.

It was much the same story against Matovu. Keane focused and took chances on the inside to score the most eye-catching of the punches.

Matovu let fly in the second half of the fight, but his loaded hooks fell mostly on the gloves of Keane's high guard, as he took the points decision by 60-54.

Bloxwich's Luke Paddock, a Clubs for Young People national finalist as an amateur, turned pro with a four-round light welterweight contest against Matt Seawright.

'Cool Hand' Paddock was more erratic at the start than he would have liked, but settled and grew in confidence after the first couple of sessions, Seawright given just a share of one round.

## Youthful presence after working with schools

WILLENHALL Rugby Club are selling the sport to youngsters in a bid to bolster youth membership.

Coaches from the club are visiting schools and staging taster sessions to try to get children interested in joining Willenhall's junior teams.

Club president Elfyn Pugh was at Short Heath Junior School, in Pennine Way, Short Heath, Willenhall for one of the classes.

Four groups of 25 children at the school took part and around 20 have signed up for after-school training.

### Links

Pugh, aged 78, has been involved with the club, based in Bognop Road, Essington, since they launched in 1966.

"We have started working at schools in order to establish some links and get some children into the club," he said.

"We are a bit weak in the eight to nine-year-old age group at the moment, so that is the area we have targeted."

"Around 20 of the children who have been involved in the taster sessions have gone along to after-school activities so we are hopeful at least 10 will join the club."



Jordanna Richards of Willenhall Rugby Club with Alex Harvey and other pupils

## Adlington is backing Ellie for top award

REBECCA ADLINGTON has revealed that she wants fellow swimmer Ellie Simmonds to win BBC Sports Personality of the year.

Simmonds, 18, won two gold medals, one silver and a bronze at this year's Paralympics in London, writes William Watkinson.

She is the youngest nominee for the award, which will be handed out in front of a 15,000-capacity crowd on December 16 at London's ExCeL centre.

Adlington said: "It's so hard, but I'm going to stick with Ellie. I know her through swimming and she's absolutely lovely, not to say that the others are not."

"I know what goes into swimming and I know about all the effort that you have to put in – and I know what she has to do."

"She's just turned 18; I think she's one of the youngest up for the award and what she has just achieved is truly amazing."

Walsall-born Simmonds became Great Britain's youngest-ever Olympic or Paralympic medal winner after taking two golds at the Beijing Games in 2008, aged just 13 and nine months.

She has five world records to her name and won BBC Young Sports Personality of the Year in 2008.

Simmonds also became the youngest recipient of an MBE in 2008 at the age of 14.

Adlington, who took double gold at Beijing and two bronzes in London, was overlooked for the sports personality prize in 2011 when she won world championship gold and silver but was not nominated in an all-male shortlist.

This year's nominations include two other Paralympians in Sarah Storey and David Weir. Other stars to feature are athletes Mo Farah and Jessica Ennis, cyclists Bradley Wiggins and Sir Chris Hoy, tennis star Andy Murray, golfer Rory McIlroy, rower Katherine Grainger, boxer Nicola Adams and sailor Ben Ainslie are also nominated.

## Football results

**Lichfield & Walsall District Football League**  
**Stretton Paving League Two**  
Brownhills Corn Gulls 4 Green Oak Tavern 2; Dosthill Rangers 1 Shire Oak Saints Warriors 5.  
**Computa-Tec League Three**  
Bowman FC 2 Trent Valley Rovers 4; Railway Tavern 2 Lichfield Social B 4.  
**Lichfield Challenge Cup round one**  
Freemans B 2 Hazelwood Athletic 3.  
**Jack Donnelly Cup round three**  
London Chet 7 Erdington Star 2.

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# SPORT

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Walsall star lines up  
Midlands title bout  
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**Scrum down**  
Rugby club tries  
to find new recruits  
**Page 39**



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**Wood are on song to defeat form side**

**Stafford Town 0  
Walsall Wood 4**

WOOD turned in a splendid performance to take victory over the form team of the Midland Combination.

Stafford went through November unbeaten, including a 5-1 away win at title contenders Nuneaton Griff.

But it was Wood's day as an improving team took the spoils courtesy of strikes from Lewis Taylor Boyce, Tom Evans, Ahmet Bilgimer and an own goal.

Town also had their moments and Ishmael Reid put Spencer Gunnell through for a shot which hit the inside of the left-hand post and rolled across the face of goal before Craig Deakin cleared.

Wood went ahead on 20 minutes. Bilgimer ghosted past three men and his cross beyond the far post was headed into the corner by Taylor Boyce.

Fifteen minutes later, Town defender Steve Bennett headed into his own net under pressure from Taylor Boyce.

The third goal came on 76 minutes when Bilgimer sent a crossfield ball to Evans who, seeing the keeper off his line, sent a sublime 40-yard chip into the net.

Four minutes from time, Danny Forrest set up Bilgimer to score the last goal.

Wood host Wigan Robin Park in the FA Vase third round on Saturday (3pm).

**Nicki to roll back years**

NICKI PEDERSEN will roll back the years at Wolverhampton for Freddie Lindgren's testimonial.

The triple world champion, still a Wolves asset, spent two seasons at the club and returns for the Fast Freddie Challenge on March 10 in honour of his fellow Grand Prix star.

Pedersen, who won't ride in the Elite League next season, is joined by ex-Coventry and Lakeside man Andreas Jonsson - also sitting out the season.

Niels-Kristian Iversen, a Wolf in 2008, also rides in the meeting, as does club legend Peter Karlsson.

**Matches are off**

FROZEN pitches ruled out play for any of Walsall RFC's teams at the weekend. The firsts resume Midlands One West action on Saturday with a trip to Barkers Butts.



Paul Bates at the awards

## Paul and Rachel take top town award

WALSALL swimmer Paul Bates and footballer Rachel Unitt have taken a top town award.

They won the outstanding sporting achievement honour at the annual Walsall Mayor's Civic Awards, held at the Banks's Stadium.

Bates won three Staffordshire county titles in the pool and also took the 3km race at the ASA Midlands open water championships at Bosworth.

In addition, he won the prestigious Speedo 10km open water race

### Awards

at Dorney Lake in Windsor and took silver in the ASA British Championships open water race at Rother Valley, Sheffield.

The 44-year-old was also part of the Big Rick's swimming team attempt at a two-way swim of the English Channel which failed to make the crossing by under half a mile in extreme weather conditions.

Their one-way part of the swim was the fastest of any relay team in 2012, winning The Garnet Martin

Cup awarded for that feat. Bates and his Big Rick's team-mates have raised more than £4,000 this year for the British Heart Foundation and Cancer Research UK.

The team was founded in 2008 in memory of former member Mark Rickhuss, also known as Big Rick.

The angina sufferer suffered a fatal heart attack after trying to swim the Channel.

Bates said: "I've lived and worked in Walsall all my life and I'm chuffed to win an award, especially at my age."

Thirty-year-old Unitt, from Bentley, has won 100 caps for the England women's team and plays for Birmingham City Ladies.

A passionate supporter of the women's game, she plays her club football for Birmingham City Ladies and wants to set up her own football academy in Walsall.

"I just want to keep getting the message out there about ladies football and this award is recognition of that," she said.

"I am touched to have received this; thank you."

**Hunt nets his first in victory**

**Ellesmere Rangers 1  
Continental Star 2**

CONTINENTAL hit back from a goal down to take all three points against Midland Alliance basement boys Ellesmere Rangers.

Rangers led with 13 minutes gone as Kevin Renshaw raced onto a ball played over the top of the Star defence by Dan Tolley.

Renshaw, in a one-on-one with Star keeper Karl Hunter, kept his nerve to slot the ball into the bottom right-hand corner of the net.

Due to a heavy pitch, Star found it hard to get their trademark fast-paced free-flowing attacking game going.

On 57 minutes Star equalised. Josh O'Garro whipped a ball into the box and defender Matt Hunt glanced the ball into the top left-hand corner of the net past the hand of the diving Gordon in the Rangers goal.

It was the big defender's first goal for Star since his move from Pelsall Villa.

Both teams pressed for the winner and on 88 minutes Star's Tony Green smartly whipped the ball into the area.

Daniel Holgate rose highest and powerfully headed the ball down into the net to give Star a hard-earned three points.

**Lee hits hat-trick in emphatic win**

**Bloxwich 7 Market Drayton 1**

BLOXWICH men's hockey seconds wrapped up their final home game before Christmas with an emphatic victory.

Lee Hale, back from injury, scored a hat-trick with Nathan Booker (2), Phil Foster and Rob Foster completing the rout.

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# SADDLERS ATTEMPT TO TIE DOWN STARS

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE** Stefan Gamble has confirmed that Walsall are primed and ready to tie down their out-of-contract stars.

Boss Dean Smith has moved to initiate the first wave of contract renewals to avoid an end-of-season scramble.

Skipper Andy Butler, Will Grigg and Andy Taylor are among several players whose deals expire next June and Gamble said he has held initial discussions with the manager over his desire to keep the Saddlers' best players.

Gamble said: "In my conversations with him, the manager has mentioned certain names he would like to get tied down sooner rather than later.

"That view of bringing players through and securing the services of certain players is a philosophy we want to carry through.

"We don't want to rely on that short-termism and one-season contracts."

Last season Jamie Paterson, George Bowerman and Grigg signed deals midway through the campaign.

### Unusual

Mat Sadler, Manny Smith and Darryl Westlake rejected season-end offers.

Gamble said: "Last season was unusual in the fact we had so many out of contract.

"There was a turnaround of about 17 or 18 players and I understand the fans' point of view because it's difficult to get any continuity when you're making wholesale changes like that.

"It's something we're trying to move away from and the manager's future had to be resolved."

Smith signed a two-and-a-half year deal last month.

Gamble said it was the first step in trying to keep a squad together and prove the Saddlers were stable.

"You can't have a philosophy and expect a manage-

by Nick Mashiter

ment team to carry that out for you when they have less than 12 months on their contracts.

"The two go hand in hand," he said.

"Similarly, when you have players on 12-month contracts, they are not going to be too quick to sit down with you if the manager's future is not resolved."

Meanwhile, Febian Brandy says they must end home horrors after going winless in six games at the Banks's Stadium.

They have won twice at home in League One this term and a winless run of 14 overall puts them on the edge of the drop zone.

"When we get that win at home we'll push on. At the start of the season we did and then we went on to beat teams like Portsmouth," striker Brandy said, with Walsall 19th.

The Saddlers go to Coventry on Saturday for their first game at the Ricoh Arena in a Midlands derby, with the Sky Blues 15th and two points clear of Walsall.

Brandy says Mark Robins' side may be there for the taking. He said: "Coventry is a game where we could push on. They are going to come at us but I think we can edge them over."

## Mark beats world No.1 Trump in championship

WALSALL'S Mark Joyce dumped world No.1 Judd Trump out of the UK Championship after trailing 5-2.

In a best of 11 first round match at York's Barbican Centre, the 29-year-old, ranked No.50 in the world, fought back to beat the defending champion 6-5.

"I'm over the moon," said Joyce, through to face ex-world championship finalist Ali Carter.

"It wasn't a vintage performance by any means, but it's the hardest game in the world when you're under pressure.

"To my mind, my world ranking is a false one. After I had a good run in this event a couple of years ago, I got attacked during a night out and ended up with a fractured elbow.

### Progress

"It cost me four months physically, but mentally it probably cost me a lot longer. Hopefully, I can progress even further."

Trump had a three-frame gap three times but a break of 49 in the final frame saw Joyce through.

Trump played for snookers before Joyce potted the green he needed.

Trump broke down on 37 in the decider.

"I had a chance at 5-2 and I had a kick and from then on nothing went right and I just didn't play well," he said. "It's disappointing to play that badly - but fair play to Mark, he had to come from behind."



Mark Joyce on his way to a superb upset victory over world No.1 Judd Trump

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